

COLOUR POSTERS: CRANNEY & VIALLI

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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Mighty Milan

One win away from the Scudetto



700 team Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup kicks off

ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 32

TABLE

TOTAL

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	57	32	16	9	7	56	34
Brisbane Strikers	57	32	17	6	9	53	33
Melbourne Knights	56	32	16	8	8	48	27
UTS Olympic	56	32	16	8	8	53	40
Adelaide City	54	32	15	9	8	64	37
West Adelaide	53	32	16	5	11	48	41
Sydney United	51	32	13	12	7	44	32
South Melbourne	43	32	13	4	15	48	56
Morwell Falcons	35	32	9	8	15	35	63
Canberra Cosmos	32	32	7	11	14	46	61
Wollongong City	20	32	5	5	22	30	61
Newcastle Breakers	17	32	4	5	23	35	75

HOME

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	16	10	4	2	35	18
Brisbane Strikers	16	12	3	1	45	12
Melbourne Knights	16	10	3	3	25	7
UTS Olympic	16	11	4	1	28	12
Adelaide City	16	9	4	3	38	12
West Adelaide	16	11	1	4	25	16
Sydney United	16	9	3	4	29	15
South Melbourne	16	9	3	4	32	23
Morwell Falcons	16	6	5	5	19	22
Canberra Cosmos	16	5	7	4	26	20
Wollongong City	16	3	3	10	17	26
Newcastle Breakers	17	3	5	9	25	38

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	16	6	5	5	21	16
Brisbane Strikers	16	5	3	8	8	21
Melbourne Knights	16	6	5	5	23	20
UTS Olympic	16	5	4	7	25	28
Adelaide City	16	6	5	5	26	25
West Adelaide	16	5	4	7	23	25
Sydney United	16	4	9	3	15	17
South Melbourne	16	4	1	11	16	33
Morwell Falcons	16	3	3	10	16	41
Canberra Cosmos	16	2	4	10	20	41
Wollongong City	16	2	2	12	13	35
Newcastle Breakers	15	1	0	14	10	37

W WIN 3 Points - D DRAW 1 Points - L LOSS 0

RESULTS

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS.....0
WOLLONGONG CITY.....2
(Jermen 12, Perinich 51)
BRISBANE STRIKERS.....2
(Farina 55, 64)
SOUTH MELBOURNE.....0
MORWELL FALCONS.....0
ADELAIDE CITY.....0

SYDNEY UNITED.....1
(Markovac 72)
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD.....1
(Awaritefe 59)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS.....5
(Marth 16, Kovacevic 51, A Cervinski 77, 82, Pondeljask 89)
CANBERRA COSMOS.....0
WEST ADELAIDE.....3
(Cardozo 13, Day, 62, Aloisi 65)
UTS OLYMPIC.....2
(Tome 70, Edwards 89)

CROWDS

SEASON BEST: 13,956 - South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9
 ROUND 32 BEST: Sydney United V Marconi Fairfield 6,910 TOTAL ROUND 32: 27,133
 SEASON TOTAL: 822,453. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,283

FANS CLUB BY CLUB

CLUB	TOTAL	MATCHES	AVERAGE
Souths	99901	16	6243
UTS Olympic	98153	16	6134
Brisbane	80938	16	5058
Marconi	77657	16	4853
West Ad	72823	16	4551
Melb Knights	70134	16	4383
Syd Utd	69324	16	4332
Ad City	69148	16	4321
Newcastle	59341	17	3490
Wollongong	46795	16	2924
Canberra	44720	16	2795
Morwell	43237	16	2702

- EACH CLUB'S BEST CROWD -

Souths	13956 v West Ad	R9
UTS Olympic	11897 v Marconi	R31
Marconi	11866 v UTS Olympic	R20
West Ad	10870 v Ad City	R28
Ad City	9601 v West Ad	R17
Syd Utd	9170 v UTS Olympic	R19
Brisbane	8516 v Morwell	R28
Melb Knights	7140 v Souths	R23
Newcastle	6837 v UTS Olympic	R1
Canberra	5490 v Syd Utd	R2
Wollongong	5069 v UTS Olympic	R17
Morwell	4183 v Souths	R2

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LEADING GOALSCORERS

31	Damian Mori	(Adelaide City)
19	Frank Farina	(Brisbane Strikers)
18	Kris Trajanovski	(UTS Olympic)
14	Jim Tsekini	(West Adelaide)
13	Andy Harper	(Marconi Fairfield)
12	Rodney Brown	(Brisbane Strikers)
12	Bradley Hassell	(Adelaide City)
12	Francis Awaritefo	(Marconi Fairfield)
11	Paul Wade	(Canberra Cosmos)
10	Vaughan Coveny	(South Melbourne)

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Chile v Australia

CORICA AND VAN BLERK DROP OUT OF TEAM

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Eddie Thomson, Australia's luckless coach currently in Santiago, Chile, desperately trying to prepare his team for tomorrow's (Wednesday A.E.S.T.), international clash against the new Chile World Cup side, has yet again been struck with further players' unavailability for this clash.

No sooner had Thomson arrived in Santiago last Friday night (local time) with an already severely depleted Australian squad, when he received a phonecall from England with more bad news.

Australia's left-sided World Cup defender Jason Van Blerk, declared himself unavailable as his troubled England club Millwall are fighting relegation from the first division.

Van Blerk reluctantly had to inform Thomson that Millwall are refusing to release him to fly across to Chile.

If that wasn't enough, there was even further bad news awaiting Thomson.

Late last night, ABSW urgently contacted Thomson at the Australian team's Carrera Hotel to alert him that now, his attacking left midfielder, Steve Corica would not be arriving in Chile as expected to join the Australian squad.

The fast-paced Corica, (currently also based in the



Jason Van Blerk: Has withdrawn from the Australian team.

England first division with Wolves), sustained a groin strain over the week-end which Thomson was not aware of, when the Wolves went down 2-0 to Carl Veart's Crystal Palace.

Upon hearing of the latest withdrawal, (Corica's), Thomson stated to ABSW last night, "What else can now go wrong for me?"

"I'm frightened to answer the phone since we arrived here."

"But you cannot complain. These things happen and I've just got to do the very best I can."

"The Chilean Soccer authorities have informed me that they are very confident of a 40,000 crowd and that they will be turning up because the fans already know it is their best national team," said Thomson.

Thomson added, "Sure we've had problems with players dropping out, but we have to solve them and give the Chileans a real tough match."

"Even at this stage I want to have a go at them."

"I will use Mehmet (Durakovic) to closely mark their Real Madrid ace goalscorer Ivan Zamorano with Dominic (Longo) as our second marker."

"Upfront I will link up Paul Trimboli to join Joe Spiteri."

"In the midfield we have to push in Andrew Bernal to join Paul Wade who will be flanked by Ernie Tapai on the right and Danny Tiatto on the left."

It appears obvious with each passing day that Australia should never have agreed to this ill-scheduled match.

From the moment Thomson selected his original travelling squad late last Monday week, far too many of his international playing staff have been dropping out.

To start with, Steve Horvat, Graham Arnold, the two Vidmar brothers (Aurelio and Tony) plus marksman Mark Viduka, were never going to be released because of matches they had to play with their respective European clubs.

Then West Ham's Robbie Slater dropped out early last week when he suffered a gashed shin in a League match against Bolton Wanderers that required an immediate operation in London.

Then Adelaide City's and Australia's leading domestic goalscorer Damian Mori, who was available due to serving a one match suspension in the League, suddenly pulled out of the Australian squad last Wednesday afternoon declaring himself unavailable due to personal reasons.

Mori's place was hurriedly filled by Morwell Falcon's striker Warren Spink.

Compounding his selection problems, Thomson strongly refrained from selecting Australian based players that are

currently involved with any of the top seven teams in the Ericsson League fighting for a Top Six position.

Just as a point of interest for everyone involved in Australian Soccer.

Whilst Thomson has been saddled up with the monumental responsibility of looking after our four international teams (Senior or Full, Olympic, Youth, and Under 17s), the Chileans employ no less than six fulltime coaches to handle their four national squads.

There will be a delayed telecast of the game on SBSTV at 8pm EST Thursday April 25.

Australia's likely line up:

Goalkeeper: Mark Bosnich.

Sweeper: George Kulscar.

Defence: Kevin Muscat, Dominic Longo, Mehmet Durakovic, Danny Tiatto.

Midfield: Ernie Tapai, Paul Wade (capt), Andrew Bernal.

Strikers: Paul Trimboli, Joe Spiteri.

Editorial change at ABSW

Australian and British Soccer Weekly editor Anthony Raineri is leaving the post next month for an extended private sojourn to Europe.

Anthony was appointed editor at very short notice at the end of June 1994, just after the start of the World Cup finals in the United States.

His association with ABSW, in fact, began in the mid-1980s as a high school work experience student under the editorship of Keith Gilmour.

After gaining training and experience at other newspaper companies, Anthony joined ABSW as a reporter for a year before being appointed editor.



Anthony Raineri

Anthony, 25, believes he has given ABSW an unprecedented international flavour and at the same time retained a relatively comprehensive coverage of the domestic game.

"I have always considered the job of ABSW editor a privilege," Anthony said. "The most enjoyable part for me undoubtedly has been the opportunity to mix with the game's grassroots supporters, that is, the ABSW readers."

"Soccer, on an international scale, is more than just a game. This has been reinforced in me during my time in the editor's chair."

"Soccer, or association football as I prefer to call it, is a way of life that influences every section of society."

"It can educate you as much as any academic institution."

"For me, the unique beauty of the sport is its global appeal."

Anthony's last edition as editor will be May 21.

He said his enthusiasm for the sport remained unbridled and he one day hoped to return to the Australian soccer media.

ABSW sub-editor Bob Brooks will be the new editor.

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Schools competition involves 10,000 players

BY BOB BROOKS

Every great journey starts with the first step. That's certainly the case with the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup.

This competition for boys under 15 school teams, kicked off in 1979 with 34 State and Independent entries from the Hunter region of NSW which is based round Newcastle and the magnificent river valley which gives its names to the area.

Belmont High were the first winners with Whitebridge runners up. Whitebridge were losing finalists again in 1990 when 453 schools entered.

In 1985 the trophy left NSW for the first time for Canberra as they beat 1981 winners Glendale.

Shailer Park from Queensland went close in 1991 when from 477 entries they lost to Westfields from Fairfield City in the west of the Sydney Basin.

In fact teams from the Greater West of Sydney have taken the trophy over the last five years. With two Catholic schools — Parramatta Marist and Patrician Brothers, Blacktown successful in 1993 and

1994 respectively.

Yeppoon High from east of Rockhampton put up a superb fight on a cold night last September in Newcastle to hold Westfields Sports High to 0-0 after extra time.

Only penalties could split the two with Westfields running out narrow winners. While Lambton, a suburb of Newcastle and Holy Spirit of Bellambi from the Illawarra, north of Wollongong played out a pulsating 3-3 draw.

Thirty six people are involved in the organisation and running of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup. It is still run from Newcastle.

Interestingly Ingham is the home of the North Queensland Area Manager and Wodonga in NE Victoria is the furthest south.

So popular is the Cup that over 700 hopeful schools are starting their individual journeys from mid-April. Marceba on the Atherton tablelands just west of Cairns and also birthplace of former Soccerroo star, Frank Farina, play Mt St Bernard's College.

Emerald from the Central Queensland coalfields and five hours from the coast play local rivals Blackwater.

In Brisbane Anglican Church Grammar take on Wynnum while the Gold Coast pits Trinity Catholic College against South Queensland International or Canterbury.

Twenty have come in from the NSW far North coast with three from Murwillumbah alone.

The frosty New England region and the rich agricultural area around the Peel river valley includes 1980 winners Tamworth High and 1992 losing finalist Oxley.

It will be interesting to see if schools from the NSW mid and lower north coasts of NSW can make an impact. Dungog and Woolgoolga are two of the wonderful names.

Famous overseas names such as Aberdeen, Newcastle, Cardiff and Toronto pop up from around the Hunter while Sydney is split up into five individual areas.

Broken Hill entertain the winners of Cobarr

versus Willyama. A win here sees St Johns Dubbo or Red Bend take a six hour journey out west.

St Francis Xavier are up against Melba in the Canberra area. A catholic Saint versus an Opera star.

Four entries are in from Wodonga while its twin town of Albury also has four.

Finally Holy Spirit which had such a good run last year goes next door to Bulli.

Which schools will battle through to the area finals due on June 28, from north to south. To win even these, is quite an achievement in itself.

The Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup provides a great competition for over 10,000 players.

The eventual winners receive a perpetual trophy, gold medals and polo shirts suitably embroidered. Their school wins \$350.

The Star player of the competition is awarded a \$200 educational scholarship.

Let the tournament begin!



Vadim Mikoulsky: Sydney Cosmos's new Latvian international.

SYDNEY COSMOS SNARE EURO INTERNATIONAL

Ambitious Sydney club, Sydney Cosmos, who recently narrowly missed out on a Ericsson Cup birth, have splashed out a substantial amount to snare the services of 24 year old Latvia-midfielder Vadim Mikoulsky.

Mikoulsky who has played 12 times for Latvia has migrated to Australia on

a permanent basis, and plans to make his new home here.

Mikoulsky made his long awaited debut for the Cosmos last weekend and impressively grabbed 5 goals in two matches. Mikoulsky now joins the impressive array of players already in a Cosmos jersey, experienced players such as Spyridakos, McCulloch,

Gomez, Iocca, Lee, and also former Canterbury Marrickville power forward Louis Dounis.

In addition the team are awaiting the arrival of 2 exciting Ericsson Cup stars who will bolster the ranks.

They should enable the club to realise an ambition of being successful in this seasons NSW Waratah Cup.



Darragh Iocca: Another star player of Sydney Cosmos.

ANZAC CUP

Northern NSW pitted against NSW

BY DAVID COOPER

Former Blacktown City coach Ken Schembri has named a strong NSW Super League select side, to face old rivals Northern NSW on Anzac Day Stadium at Breakers Newcastle.

A trophy known as the ANZAC CUP, will rekindle the old rivalry which was last played out in 1962, some 34 years ago.

In those days it was North v South, but an annual clash will

start this year and be played every Anzac Day and give recognition to those players, who are top of the line in their respective State League competitions.

Schembri, who experienced success with Blacktown and was coach of the NSW U/23 side that toured Korea two years ago, has picked a mixture of experience and youth for the game.

Heading the list of names in the side will be Geoff Gunning from Parramatta Eagles, who has many

years of National Soccer League experience, while quite a number have also had stints in Australia's premier competition.

Schembri, has also given some youngsters namely Malcolm Meilaik, Matthew Highway, Sacha Telisman and Anthony La Grazia, the chance to get a taste of representative football at senior level.

Northern NSW has also named a strong squad, with former New Zealand goalkeeper Clint Gosling

in the squad, while other noted players include Neil Owens, Mark Jones and Bobby Naumov, all with plenty of NSL experience.

An intriguing preceding fixture, will feature the best young women soccer players in the state, with the Northern NSW ITC playing the NSW ITC. These girls are the future champions of Womens football and will be anxious to show how much the game has developed in the last five years. (See page 20).



Frank Mikuletic: NSW goalkeeper.



Blago Milicevic: St George midfielder.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE SELECT

Frank Mikuletic	Leichhardt
Sacha Telisman	Leichhardt
Anthony LaGrazia	Leichhardt
Anthony Surjan	Parramatta
Mark Reveley (c)	Parramatta
Geoff Gunning	Parramatta
Malcolm Meilaik	Parramatta
Steve Berry	Blacktown
Damon Langan	Blacktown
Jeff Suzor	Bonnyrigg
David Hayes	Macarthur
Blago Milicevic	St. George
Mathew Highway	Central Coast
Andrew Dowling	Sutherland
Grant Bard	Sutherland

NORTHERN NSW SELECT

Clint Gosling	Adamstown
David Bock	Adamstown
Liam McGuire	Adamstown
Neil Owens	Adamstown
Craig McGregor	Adamstown
Peter Oberhauser	Weston
Neville Smith	Weston
Justin Kavanagh	Weston
Danny Burt	Edgeworth
Mark Jones	Edgeworth
Bobby Naumov	Edgeworth
Ben Lane	Hamilton
David Wilson	West Wallsend
Steve Bailey	Lake Macquarie
Wayne Bailey (c)	Highfields

SCHAEFER WANTS FIRST SPOT FOR MARCONI

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Manfred Schaefer (right), Marconi's tough coach, is more than ever determined to finish in first spot on the ladder come Sunday night at Marconi Stadium.

Marconi line up against their final round opponent, West Adelaide. The Sharks defeated Sydney Olympic 3-2 at Hindmarsh Stadium last Sunday to charge back into the Top Six.

Schaefer told ABSW last night, "Regardless of what happened last season and even during this one, I want to end the season in first spot."

"It is our last home game and our fans have been starved of success recently."

"They deserve a first-past-the-post finish."

"West Adelaide had a good win last Sunday against Olympic and will be quietly confident against us."

"They still need points from Sunday's game."

"The hot conditions last Sunday against Sydney United did in fact affect us, I can assure you but with reverting to a later kick-off this Sunday, things will be different for us."

"I'm glad to have back Dominic Longo, Eric Hristodoulou and Andy Harper who will all be available."

"I'm still most upset from the last time we met West Adelaide



when they beat us 1-0 at Hindmarsh Stadium. They scored virtually in the first minute."

"And as you know, I'm a guy that holds a grudge."

"Last season Marconi finished in 10th position."

"Now we are at the top and very much want to stay there," warned Schaefer.

The Marconi boss finally added, "After 33 rounds, it's a very big moment for everyone out at Marconi."

Further encouraging news for Schaefer was the excellent form of pacey defender Gary Van Egmond last Sunday, who made his long-awaited comeback from injury in the first team against Sydney United.

Culina do or die for United

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Branko Culina, Sydney United's coach, confessed it's going to be do or die for his team's away clash with Adelaide City on Sunday at the Hindmarsh Stadium.

United will be without their young goalkeeper Andrew Crews who went off injured at halftime last Sunday against Marconi.

John Perosh will fill in as goalkeeper but left midfielder Paul Bilokapic will still be out due to suspension.

"At this stage I also have centre-back Mark Babic in doubt with a knee ligament problem. Also right-back Robbie Trajkovski could also be out with stress fractures to his shins," stated Culina.

Culina went on to say, "Adelaide City has not been beaten over the last 14 games and we both must win this one."

"We have outplayed most teams this season yet have had trouble scoring goals."

"We just have not had the luck."

"We have had players sent off and still competed well without scoring."

Adelaide City will have their dynamic striker, Damian Mori back from a one match suspension.

Australian goalkeepers are everywhere

BY ROY HAY

Wherever one turns in English and European soccer these days, Australian goalkeepers keep popping up. Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich has the highest profile, with his Wembley League Cup Final victory and a stirring display for the Socceroos against Scotland last month. He is a part of the team with one of the best defensive records in the league behind the parsimonious Villa rearguard led by veteran Paul McGrath.

Less well known is Swindon Town's Frank Talia, who is on the verge of promotion with his team to the First Division of the Endleigh league. The former Knox City and Sunshine George Cross keeper understudied Tim Flowers and Bobby Mimms at Blackburn Rovers, although injury denied him enough appearances for a championship medal in 1994-95.

He played some matches on loan with Swindon and then transferred and expected to be the regular keeper. Fraser Digby, the existing incumbent, then signed his contract and Talia was relegated to the bench once again.

After the F.A. Cup Fifth Round match against Southampton, Talia got his place back and has been in possession since then as Town have marched to the top of the league with games in hand on Blackpool.

Talia has not won over all the



Swindon fans, many of whom have a soft spot for Digby, but player-manager and former Liverpool star, Steve McMahon, obviously sees the potential in the young Australian and has stuck by him.

Zeljko Kalac finds himself in limbo after his expensive transfer to Leicester City. A few well publicised errors in his first couple of games under manager Mark McGhee meant his replacement by club stalwart Kevin Poole. Since then Kalac has been working hard to regain the confidence of the club.

McGhee subsequently left to manage Wolverhampton Wanderers, and he and assistant Mick Hickman wanted to take both midfielder Steve Corica and Kalac to Wolves. The Corica transfer went through, but Kalac's work permit presented problems and it

now looks as if Wolves will not seek to complete the transfer until after the end of the current season, so that a new permit can run for the whole of the 1996-97 season.


John Filan took over from the injured veteran Steve Ogrizovic at Coventry City earlier this season and distinguished himself in a number of games, even though he could not cope with some of the suicidal potential of the Sky Blues defenders, which has had manager Ron Atkinson unusually speechless.

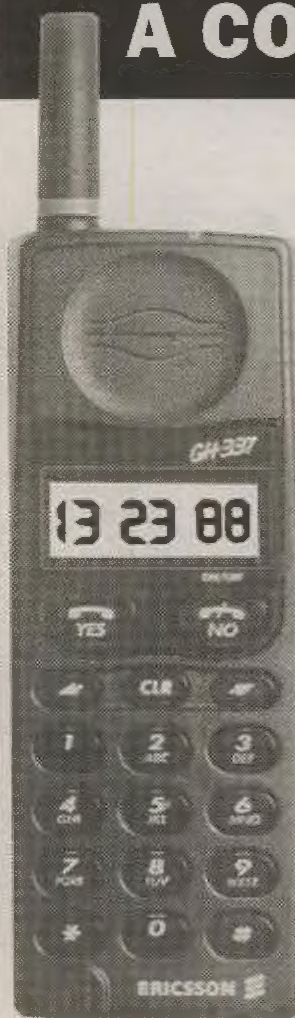
Since Ogrizovic has returned, Filan has been back on the bench, and in the fraught struggle to avoid relegation he is unlikely to force his way back in, provided Ogrizovic retains his fitness.

Other Australian keepers have made a lesser mark in England and overseas. Jason Kearton has finally given up the unavailing battle to replace the ageless Neville Southall at Everton. Mark Schwarzer (pictured top), the former Marconi keeper continues to fight for a place in Germany. Bob Cattlin has returned to Australia after a spell at Notts County.

What is it about Australian keepers which puts them in demand? The athleticism and the standard of Australian goalkeeping in the National League must be a contributing factor, though both Bosnich and Talia went to England early to complete their apprenticeships.

STRIKE UP!

A CONVERSATION WITH ERICSSON  MOBILE PHONES



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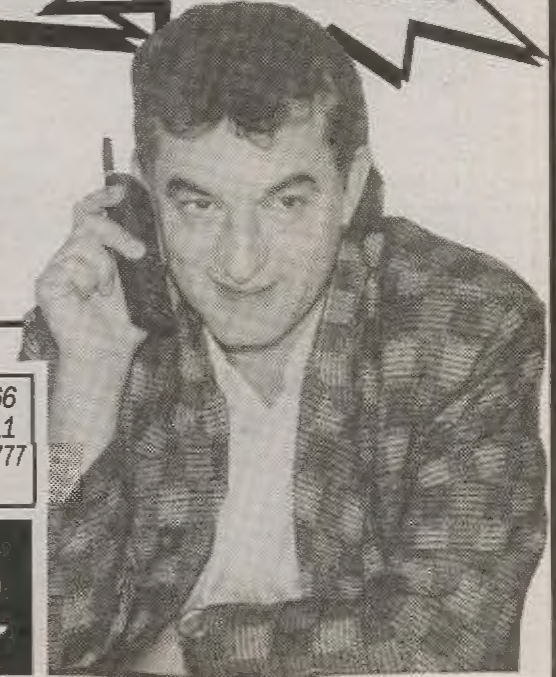
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2/ The player (super star) is forced out deliberately by a nasty tackle...

I think the red card for the offender, then only a free kick given is not fair enough. Therefore to give back the chance to score and to protect the player the free kick should change to a penalty. This PENALTY should be just outside the 16m area, no wall allowed.

Tran Van Thai,
Canley Heights, NSW

Goalscorers are here

Dear Sir,

On the 7th April 1996 "On the Ball" TV program, the Canberra Soccer team's coach said: "Australia does not have good finishers."

1, From Baartz, Warren, Abonyi and Co, through Soper, Trimboli and etc... including Viduka, Mori, we have plenty of good goal scorers.

2, What we need is; good coaches who can teach, the youngsters, how to shoot! If he (Mike Lyons) goes to England to bring good finishers - probably his mates-, then he will create, the same situation there, as in Italy, in the domestic competition they have good imported finishers, but not in the National team!

R Marton,
St. Marys, NSW

Query on statistics

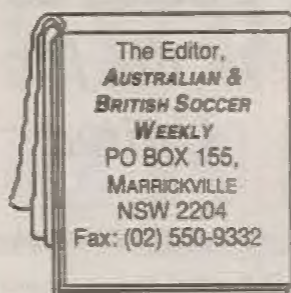
Dear Sir,

I read the ABSW every week with interest. In the April 2, 1996 edition Greg Blake writes on page 16, about the leading scorers in final games. I believe his copyrighted statistics are completely wrong. He reckons Frank Farina scored a hat-trick for Marconi against Sydney City in 1986, the game went into extra time, and Sydney City won on penalties. I believe in fact Marconi won and Farina played for Sydney City.

Peter Garamy,
Maroubra, NSW

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Strikers have raised profile of the game

Dear Sir,

Mr R. Melor wants us to believe that he is a friend of Football in this country but at the same time he used statistics (ABSW 9.4.96) to downgrade the efforts of people who have given the game its highest profile yet in QLD.

Mr Melor must have fallen victim to the pollution of Bondi beach because he has obviously chosen to ignore the facts. Since the shift from Perry Park to Suncorp Stadium over 75000 people have watched the Strikers play and mostly on rainy nights. There are no local derbies to boost attendances.

The game has a weekly segment on Channel 7 with Frank Farina facing the cameras. I have personally witnessed an increase in the allocation of space to promote the game in the Brisbane Courier Mail.

The Strikers have hosted oversubscribed corporate golf days and celebrity lunches. The Strikers are at the forefront of the movement

to lift the profile of Football not only in Qld but nationally.

It is a shame that there are so many Mr Melors in Australia who choose to shoot the messenger. It will be more productive and beneficial to the game if Mr Melor was to vent his frustrations on the media who have for years contributed to the stagnation of the sport.

Mr Melor, have a good and positive look at the latest statistics and you will find that the game is finally coming out of the ice age and this is largely due to the efforts of the very people and organisations which you have deliberately chosen to put down.

Next time you put pen to paper for the benefit of the other codes, get your facts right.

Serge Armansin,
Everton Hills, Qld

Panathinaikos fan says thank you

Dear Sir,

As a loyal fan of Panathinaikos Athens FC, I would like to congratulate SBS TV on their decision to broadcast the 2nd leg of the European Champion's Cup semi final between the champions of Greece and Ajax Amsterdam.

Panathinaikos' performance in the Champions League this year has been most admirable. The recent 1-0 victory over Ajax in Holland must convince even the greatest of sceptics.

Whatever the outcome on April 18th, it is great when an underdog threatens to cause an upset in an otherwise predictable competition where fans were tipping on Ajax - Juventus final as early as November last year!

On the subject of favourites and underdogs, I also think it is about time SBS screened more matches from South America and of less fancied European nations. A couple of weeks ago I was amazed to see the quality of football played in Turkey during the Fenerbahce - Besiktas derby.

At the same time, the recent 2nd leg of the Real Madrid - Juventus E.C.C. quarter final tie, had me pinching myself to stay awake! If the quality of football is there, the wider the range from where matches are drawn, the better.

This is afterall why they call it The World Game!

Tom Tsamouras,
Hamilton South, NSW

Aussie Rules for Slater

Dear Sir,

After reading R. Melor's letter, his reference to the fact that "the vast majority of soccer players couldn't even be bothered to watch top class soccer on free to air TV" — reminded me of a page from last week's UTS Olympic programme.

It features a profile on UTS player Chris Slater who lists his heroes as Greg Norman and Collingwood footballer Nathan Buckley!

I doubt whether this 'soccer player' watches free to air soccer, but I bet he never misses an Aussie rules game. I wonder if he's even heard of George Weah, Patrick Kluivert or Alan Shearer?

It gets even better though. The character who writes this profile claims that after transferring from Brisbane to Olympic, Chris Slater kicked a goal!

On my next visit to Leichhardt Oval I half expect to see four posts at each end of the (oval) pitch and 18 guys wearing jock-straps instead of shorts, playing aerial ping-pong with a giant easter egg.

Henry Wizgier,
Forestville, NSW

Aussie Coaching for export — to the 'land of the rising football'

Richard Alagich's FIFA-acclaimed book 'Winning Through Technique and Tactics' has just sold out and is going into its second print.

An Australian soccer-coach visiting the USA was amazed to come across this book in a Boston bookstore yet incredibly, another Sydney soccer-coach could not find a copy of it over here, despite regular plugging by SBS TV.

It has sold extensively throughout Asia and when Alagich coached in Japan last year he was invited to meet the Technical Committee of the actual Japanese Football Association.

There, he was pleasantly surprised to see — you've guessed it, his very own book lying on the table.

Australians are unaware that we are now exporting soccer knowledge, particularly to Japan where they have shown a great interest in Alagich's plan of administration, as well as his coaching methods.

His proposal that youth coaching should be organised nationally into 'Centres Of Excellence', one in each capital city taking in the cream from smaller more local 'regional centres', is also being studied seriously by the Japanese FA. They were particularly impressed with his programme of 'specialised tests' to identify potential in young players.

Later this year the 'J' League club Avispa Fukuoka is to send about 12 youth coaches to the Alagich Pacific Soccer camp on Sydney's North Shore which also specialises in 'goal-keeping' coaching by ex-Wimbledon keeper Fred Wall. Chris James completes a trio of highly qualified and accredited instructors.

Why all this interest in Aussie youth-coaches, when the Japanese are awash with so much money that they can buy the best ready-made talent available in the world, such as Brazil's captain Dunga, Scillachi and Hugo Maradona?

The shrewd Japs know that to maintain the amazing success of their 'J-League', they have to build a solid youth policy.

"The Japanese realise that the future lies with youth and are doing something about it in a very big way," says Alagich. "When I was coaching over there I was amazed at the resources that are being pumped into youth development."

You could ask why with all their resources, the Japs don't go to the very pinnacle of world youth-development — Ajax Amsterdam?

The answer to that is quite simple. The Dutch club's reputation for finding and nurturing young talent is so great that a lot of their 'finds' virtually come to them, such was the case with their brilliant young Nigerians, Finidi George and Nwankwo Kanu.

It is the dream of every soccer-playing kid in the world to play in Western Europe — not Japan, even though in many cases the earnings are bigger in the 'land of the rising football.'

Even with all this wealth and success, The Japanese are down to earth enough to remember they are still a developing footballing nation.

"The Japanese are building their own national youth policy to suit their needs," says Richard. "We should have an Australian policy to solve our unique problems."

That is what I believe my youth-development program will help to do."

Japanese teams love touring Australia for they have been pleasantly surprised to find so much soccer played and coached in the 'land of the oval ball'.

The Pacific Soccer camp has now virtually become a 'derigueur' stop-over for most youth teams and coaches.

It may also surprise many Australians that they regard this country very highly in soccer, because for a small country so dominated by other sports, Australia's respectable world ranking is quite simply 'amazing'.

They are however not aware that this healthy appearance is probably due to accident rather than design.

An army of dedicated amateur coaches, mainly from Europe, have helped ignite a spark which has grown into a bushfire as the game of soccer has

spread into the biggest participation sport in the whole of Australia.

But then, just like a bush-fire — it eventually dies out as most of these young footballers fall by the wayside, because of a simple lack of national policy.

Oblivious to the waste, Australian soccer carries on its mish-mash way of coaching each new generation of soccer-crazy kids while the occasional fruits that it produces, are reaped by European clubs.

Henry Wizgier



Richard Alagich with the young players at a Youth coaching clinic.

Horvat and Skoko battle together

BY ROY HAY

Two former Geelong soccer stars currently playing for Hajduk Split in Croatia, Steve Horvat and Josip Skoko, are currently battling to take to their team to the league championship and the prize of a place in the European Champions' league next season. The Croatian league ends with a home and away play-off series between the top six teams, with cumulative points and goal difference deciding the outcome, rather than a knock-out competition as in the Ericsson Cup.

Last week-end Hajduk hammered Zagreb by six goals to one, away from home, with Horvat continuing his ever-present run in defence and Skoko coming on as substitute in the second half. This week-end Hajduk plays the bottom club in the play-offs and then has three crucial games to complete its programme. First comes the derby match with Mark Viduka's Croatia Zagreb. Hajduk lost the away game by four goals to one, so it is vital that it reverses this result at home. Next Hajduk is away to Osijek and finally it plays Varteks at home. Varteks beat Hajduk one-nil a couple of weeks ago, so this too looms as a crunch game.

Meanwhile Croatia will be at Wembley on Wednesday night for a friendly game against England as part of both countries' preparations for Euro 96, which start in June. Strangely this friendly match will not have a huge bearing on the play-offs at home, since many of Croatia's stars, like those of Australia, play overseas, including Zvonimir Boban at AC Milan, Igor Stimac with Derby County in and Robert



Steve Horvat: Bolstering Hajduk Split's defence in the quest for a European place.

Prosinecki at Real Madrid. Stimac was Horvat's immediate predecessor at Hajduk, and when Horvat's contract ends at the conclusion of next season, he can look forward to a lucrative transfer to one of the big Italian, Spanish or German clubs if he maintains his current rate of improvement. His performance in defence for Australia against Scotland last month did his reputation a power of good, even though Australia lost by the only goal, scored by the irrepressible Ally McCoist of Rangers.



Josip Skoko: Young Socceroo starting to make an impact with Hajduk Split.

Johnnie Walker coach of the Month

BY JOHN ECONOMOS.

Branko Culina, coach of Sydney United was late last week declared the 'Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month'. This was the seventh time the award has been made this season.

The studious Culina, following last Sunday's luckless 1-1 home draw against League leaders Marconi, is now battling to get his side into the Top Six Series after the last round of matches this coming weekend.

The 38 year old coach took out the 'Johnnie Walker' monthly award for his two wins, a draw plus a single loss (Melbourne Knights) in United's last four matches prior to the Marconi clash.

Culina last night when contacted by ABSW, stated, "This award belongs to the efforts put in by a large team at Sydney United.

"It also belongs to my captain Tony Popovic, all my League squad players, my assistant Steve Watson, team physio Stan Ivanic plus our team-manager Ivan Vuksic."

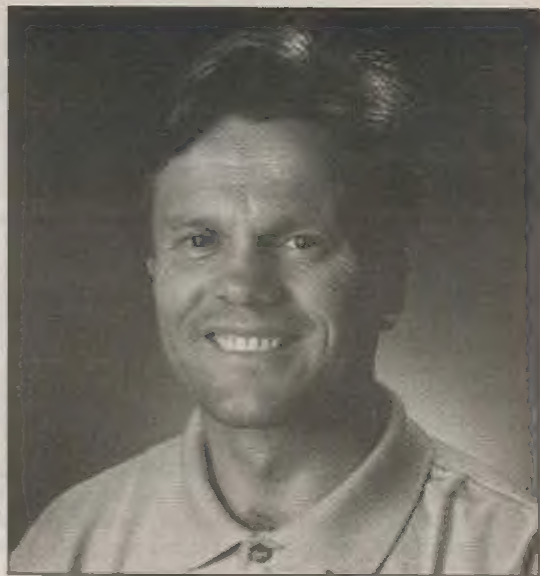
But Culina went on to add, "All season I can honestly say we have had little luck. We have been creating the chances but failing to put them away.

"Now we find ourselves having to struggle by being two League points out of the Top Six. We must wait till Sunday night after our away match against Adelaide City to see whether we can get ourselves back into the 'Play-offs.

"Sunday's match now becomes a Grand Final for us in Adelaide", ended Culina.

The Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month award is chosen on the following criteria:

1. Team performance-the number of wins in that period.
2. Quality of opposition-beating a top side as opposed to beating the bottom of the table.
3. Home and Away-winning away from home as opposed to winning at home



Branko Culina: Sydney United's coach

Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup results

Qualifying round

Pennant Hills	3	Marsden	0
Turramurra	4	Killarney Heights	3
St Leo's College	3	Kuring-gai	0
Freshwater	2	Beacon Hill	1
Granville Boys	2	Our Lady of Lebanon	1
Gymea	3	Heathcote	2
Punchbowl	3	Narwee	1
Cambridge Park	5	Dunheved	1
St Pauls Penrith	4	John Wycliffe	3
Sarah Redfern	3	John Terry	0
Casula	10	Hurlstone Ag	0

SA and Marconi hearing postponed

BY TED SIMMONS OF AAP

The court battle between Marconi club president Tony Labbozzetta and Soccer Australia (Australian Soccer Federation) has been further postponed until next month.

Justice Kim Santow, in the Supreme Court in Sydney, last Friday listed the dispute for another appearance on May 17 which may determine a hearing date.

The club had previously won an injunction preventing Soccer Australia going ahead with moves to force it to replace Labbozzetta as its representative on the Federation.

In January, Soccer Australia had given the club seven days, later extended by three days after Marconi began legal action, to show cause why it should not have to replace Labbozzetta.

The Federation had taken action after its decision at a board meeting that Labbozzetta had been guilty of conduct unbecoming and prejudicial to the best interests of the game.

Barrister Victor Kerr, for Marconi, sought an expedition of the hearing and requested a fresh timetable requiring Soccer Australia to put on a defence.

Mr Justice Santow rejected a move to delay the hearing until a Licensing Board inquiry involving the club had been completed and its finding delivered.

He said it could take up to three months before the finding was handed down and relisted the current issue for mid-May for further directions on a hearing date.

MARCONI v WEST AD



MARCONI STADIUM

This Sunday night

KICK OFF 7.00PM

YOUTH LEAGUE

Marconi v St. George 5.00pm

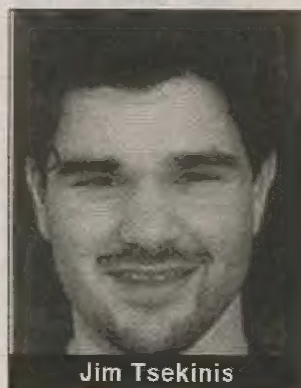
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Raul Blanco

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY
RICHARD
KREIDER

NEW LOOK PANTHERS MAUL OLYMPIC

Bayswater City Panthers striker, Robert Peruzza is the unlikely leading goalscorer of the new Premier League season, after netting four in a 5-0 thrashing of Olympic Kingsway at Bayswater Oval last Saturday.

The former Australian schoolboy international was also on target with the winner in their first round victory against Spearwood.

It was a convincing performance by Bayswater, led by example by former Stirling midfield master Paul McVittie, defender Boza Erakovic and the alert Perruzza, who all turned out in a new blue Sampdoria look-alike outfit that was released at an official launch luncheon.

The Panthers already potent line-up will soon include former Swan IC defender Alan Hynd once his transfer is cleared, and an ex-professional utility player from England.

The weekend result also showed that newly promoted Kingsway could struggle this season since they are devoid of a leading striker and in possession of a breakable back-line despite the presence of seasoned stopper Graham Normanton.

Peruzza opened his account in the seventh minute when he smartly pivoted on a loose ball and guided it home from 10 metres through a maze of legs.

The score nearly doubled seven minutes later when 24 year old Peruzza put McVittie goalbound, but the Perth Glory member directed his strike the wrong side of an upright.

It was eventually 2-0 after 25 minutes when Alan Mackenzie centred off the left flank to the head of Perruzza on the six metre line who did well to find the mark despite the close attendance of 'keeper Peter Evans and Andy Mason.

Bayswater took the two goal advantage into the second-half and increased it in the 57th minute when Perruzza had a simple tap-in, and then netted a fourth, nine minutes further on after Evans failed to hold a Dom Giorgi free-kick.

Frustration's and yellow cards were by now getting the better of the visitors following a rash of rugged tackles.

It ultimately culminated in an 82nd minute sending off of Michael Johnson who collected two cautions within a space of six minutes.

Kingsway's woes worsened three minutes from time when substitute Kevin Molyneux drove home the final nail from close range.

"I cannot complain about two clean-sheet results," said Bayswater coach Eric Williams.

"Today's performance is the result of a lot of work from the behind the scenes people here at the club."

STIRLING SCORE LATE EQUALISER

A last gasp assault by defending champions Stirling Macedonia was rewarded with a share of the points when their clash with Floreat Athena finished 2-2 at Macedonia Park.

It was the second time in as many weeks that the Stirling club had got out of jail, having scored a late winner against Olympic the previous week. They were two goals down at the weekend and seemingly down for the count, until Floreat forward Vas Kalegeracos changed the complexion of the game by limping off 10 minutes from the end.

It was Kalegeracos who put the visitors ahead in the fifth minute and scored again in the 38th to give his side a handy advantage at the interval.

But it was a more determined Macedonia unit that came out for the final period, and who pulled a goal back in the 67th minute when a Lincoln cross came down off

PREMIER LEAGUE

Sorrento	2	Spearwood Dalmatinac ..	3
Stirling Macedonia	2	Floreat Athena	2
Bayswater Panthers	5	Olympic Kingsway	0
Inglewood Falcons	2	Western Knights	2
SUNDAY			
Perth SC	4	Swan IC	0

RESERVES

Sorrento	3	Spearwood Dalmatinac ..	0
Stirling Macedonia	1	Floreat Athena	4
Bayswater Panthers	1	Olympic Kingsway	3
Inglewood Falcons	0	Western Knights	4

U18'S LEAGUE

Sorrento	10	Spearwood Dalmatinac ..	1
Stirling Macedonia	2	Floreat Athena	3
Bayswater Panthers	6	Olympic Kingsway	1
Inglewood Falcons	1	Western Knights	1

FIRST DIVISION

Joondalup City	1	Rockingham City	1
Dianella Wh/Eagles	1	Bassendean Caledonian ..	1
Fremantle City	3	Balcatta	1
Cockburn United	2	Southside United	3
N/Lake Espanol	1	Morley Windmills	3
Ashfield-Bunbury	0	Perth City	2

SECOND DIVISION

Stirling Vardar	3	Western Yugal	0
Melville Corinthian	1	Armada Park	2
Balga	0	University	4
Queens Park	3	Wanneroo City	1

the underside of the cross-bar to Peter Murphy for a simple header.

They eventually drew level in the first minute of injury time when Floreat goalie John Xigas failed to hold a stinging strike from Abdul Kamara, the loose ball was pounced on and drilled home by former Stirling winger Dean Nicolaou.

PERTH MAKE IT TWO FROM TWO

Perth joined Bayswater at the top of the league standings after defeating Swan IC 4-0 in Sunday's clash, at Dorrien Gardens. The score could have been much worse if it were not for a sensational display of goalkeeping by Swan's Luco Nicora.

Perth made the first breakthrough 21 minutes into

the match through Dale Wingell who met a deep Craig Naven clearance with a half-volley that bulged the back of the net before Nicora could twitch.

Swan's only real chance of the half came a minute later when Michael Ross sent a diving header onto the top-bar.

But Perth retaliated with a vengeance seven minutes further on when Gareth Naven ran on to a Wingell free-kick and released an unstoppable rising missile from 20 metres.

A minute from the restart, Perth increased their lead with a Wingell penalty after Nicora brought down Peter Coci.

Strangely, the 'keeper missed out on any further punishment from the referee, the home side completed the scoring in the 76th minute through Coci who tucked away a quality pass from Gareth Naven.

YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

LES SCHEINFLUG YOUTH CUP

ROUND 32

*NSW ITC	1	ACT Academy	6
Newcastle Breakers	5	Wollongong City	4
Blacktown City	1	NSW ITC	1
AIS	4	ACT Academy	1
QAS	8	Parramatta Eagles	1
Sydney United	0	Marconi Fairfield	1
St George	1	UTS Olympic	3

*Rescheduled match from Round 23

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Marconi Fairfield	32	23	2	7	90	22	71
AIS	32	22	2	8	106	41	58
UTS Olympic	32	18	6	8	73	37	60
Sydney United	31	19	2	10	65	44	59
ACT Academy	32	18	4	10	57	57	58
Qld Acad of Sport	30	16	3	11	82	44	51
Wollongong City	31	15	4	12	73	64	49
Newcastle Breaker	32	12	3	17	52	61	39
Parramatta Eagles	32	10	8	14	50	75	38
Blacktown City	29	6	6	17	41	96	24
St George	30	3	2	25	26	96	11
NSW ITC	31	3	2	26	28	114	11

GRAHAM ARNOLD COLTS CUP

ROUND 21

Sutherland Sharks	4	Central Coast	0
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Illawarra Lions	3	Bonnyrigg WE	0
Leichhardt Tigers	2	Parramatta Eagles	5
UTS Olympic	1	Warringah Dolphins	1
Adamstown R'bud	3	Canterbury Berries	0

(Forfeit by Canterbury)

ROUND 22

Warringah Dolphins	1	Leichhardt Tigers	1
Canterbury Berries	0	Macarthur Rams	3
Parramatta Eagles	6	Central Coast	0

*Rescheduled from Round 23

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Macarthur Rams	22	16	0	3	57	22	54
Parramatta Eagles	21	12	0	5	40	32	44
Illawarra Lions	19	12	1	3	43	17	43
UTS Olympic	20	12	1	6	26	14	39
Warringah Dolphin	22	7	1	7	30	23	36
Bonnyrigg WE	21	10	1	8	32	32	35
Central Coast	21	8	0	8	40	50	34
Sydney United	21	7	0	8	33	29	33
Bankstown City	21	7	1	8	45	37	32
Rockdale City Sun	19	9	0	9	31	34	29
Sutherland Sharks	20	8	0	11	39	35	26
Canterbury Berrie	22	6	0	14	26	55	22
Leichhardt Tigers	22	5	0	14	24	55	21
Adamstown Rosebud	21	2	1	17	20	53	9

NEWCASTLE

KOSMINA REVIEWS SEASON

BY JAI McDERMOTT

As the 1995/6 Ericsson Cup season nears its end, six teams will fight out Australia football's biggest prize. For teams like Newcastle though it's time for evaluation and planning for next season. Breakers coach John Kosmina reflected midweek on his club's first season back in elite company:

JM: You seemed to be under illusions when you took the job, how has 95/6 panned out compared to your expectations?

JK: I knew it would be tough. Maybe I thought we could have finished in the top ten, anything higher was going to be a bonus. In saying that though, a lot of good things have come out of the season.

I think firstly Newcastle has been awakened as to just what is required to compete at this level, and because of this perhaps there is a greater motivation within the soccer fraternity here to work on young talent.

There has been a number of young guys come through this year, like Clayton Zane and Glenn Moore. Even Troy Halpin has come of age. These guys have grown up a lot, along with the whole squad. They were fairly naive early on, guys like Scott Thomas, but they have all learnt quickly and stood up for themselves. Scott is a good example of that.

I think at times we have been desperately unlucky but that too can be put down to experience. As they say good players make their own luck. All in all I think it's been a fairly good season, even considering our final position.

JM: What are the differences between the Breakers and the frontrunners like UTS and Marconi?

JK: Consistency. Immaturity, and maturity brings with it consistency. We have struggled to put good performances back to back. That's what happens with young guys. In early March we started to get somewhere but we got hit with injuries and suspensions. It is good in that it can be learnt. These young guys just need the opportunity to learn and there are some players here who I think have got big futures in the game.

JM: George Negus called the Breakers "a blueprint for success in the future of Australian soccer". How do you see the future of the Breakers?

JK: It'll only get better. We have one of the best facilities here in the league, the nucleus of a good squad and a massive area (certainly the biggest in the comp) from which to draw. Sometimes I think it's too big, you're bound to miss some players.

We will continue to develop the area. You can buy premierships but eventually you have big holes to fill and you have to start all over again. The Breakers have got a great foundation in place. We've just got to keep forward and remaining positive.

JM: You mentioned after the game against the Knights the problem of depth, that the Knights could have five players out and still put a competitive team on the park. What will you be doing to improve the depth at the Breakers?

JK: I will be looking to expand the squad. I think you need at least eighteen, excluding keepers'. We've got sixteen. Perhaps I will look to bring a few experienced guys in to add some strength and depth for us.

In that game against the Knights, I had three defenders on the bench. Depth is a big thing for any club. It makes it really difficult to adjust to and cope with pressure without it.

JM: How have you rated the support in Newcastle?

JK: It has been fantastic. The crowd figures have been very encouraging. I wish sometimes they'd get a bit more vocal, but generally they have been great.

JM: Finally, who have been your pick as the best players, the best team? Who is your tip for the Cup?

JK: Players. There are three I think. Andrew Marth has had a great season. He's been the standout for me all year. Adelaide City, Craig Foster is a really classy player and of course Mori, he's so strong. I think Damian's success says a lot about the team he is in though. You see him score a lot of tap ins, and that is a credit to his side, but you can't argue with thirty odd goals.

The best team, at full strength, is Melbourne Knights. If they get a full strength team on the pitch they are my tip. Last time we played them here (at home) they were simply too good, awesome.



John Kosmina: Crowd figures has been encouraging.

WOLLONGONG

Theodorakopoulos reappointed for next season

BY PHIL MURPHY



The Wolves have re-appointed Nick Theodorakopoulos as coach for next season.

Theodorakopoulos arrived at Brandon Park in January to take over from Berti Mariani and the board have been happy with him.

While the team won only one Cup and two league

games, Theodorakopoulos hasn't had much luck.

Since the 4-1 win against Newcastle at Brandon Park in February, Wollongong has played 11 games for one win, three draws and seven defeats.

Each of those defeats were by a single goal and five were 0-1 results.

Wolves chairman Brian Hastings told ABSW the board believed Theodorakopoulos was capable of bringing success to the club next season.

"It will be a very important season for the club and we certainly can't afford to finish near the bottom again," Hastings said.

"Nick has worked very hard to get things together this season but he didn't have much luck.

"You only have to check the results to work that out.

"With a stronger squad and Nick working on a full-time basis, we are confident things will improve a lot.

"We have one or two really good young players ready to come into the senior squad and we will be signing a couple of experience newcomers in addition to Sonny Sevin."

Theodorakopoulos said he was happy about keeping the job.

"I have enjoyed this season greatly even though we haven't had much luck," he said.

"The players have responded to my coaching and I think they have played some very good football against the top teams in the league.



Nick Theodorakopoulos: Looking for a general at the back.

"Mick O'Shea has missed the last six games of the season through injury and we didn't have anyone to direct things, to do all the talking."

The managing director of a Sydney travel agency, Theodorakopoulos will be spending much more time in Wollongong next season.

He plans to stage morning training sessions and to get involved in promotional work.

During the off-season, he will check out the talent in the Wollongong premier league.

"If the likes of Matt Horsley and Steve Forshaw can make it in the national league after coming from district clubs, there must be other young player capable of making the step up," Theodorakopoulos said.

"I have been very impressed with the talent and attitude of some of the boys in our youth squad.

"Mile Sterjovski is a special midfield talent while Trevor Whiddett has scored 25 goals — easily the highest tally in that competition."

"They seem to have lifted against better opposition and that is a very positive sign.

"Wollongong are a very stable club and deserve to be successful.

"Having Sonny Sevin at Wollongong will be a big plus and I am sure I will be able to sign another couple of players to strengthen the side.

"Obviously we have to bolster the defence and that will be my main priority.

"At times we have been very positive at the back but we have given away too many silly goals.

"I will be looking for an experienced defender to act as general at the back.

ADELAIDE CITY

Craig Foster sacrificed money for ambition

BY PETER KRUPKA



Craig Foster ditched a potentially lucrative soccer career in Asia two years ago in pursuit of one goal — to play for Australia.

At 27, the Adelaide City midfielder proved his value to the Zebras coming back from a broken ankle to become the cornerstone of the club's late season revival.

His return to the central midfield role after a 13 week lay-off was timely for City, which has since strung together a club record unbeaten run.

After being recruited from Hong Kong club Ernest Burel, Foster renewed his contract with the Zebras for a further two years in March 1995.

At 22 and playing with Sydney United, Foster, originally from Lismore in northern New South Wales, accepted what was to be a six month contract to play in Singapore.

He found immediate success in the competition and then moved to Hong Kong before eventually

returning to Australia to give himself a chance to fulfil his soccer dream.

"I thought it was okay to be overseas in Asia, making a lot of money and living like a king, but you play sport to try and reach the top," Foster said.

"That was the motivation behind my return. So I intend staying in Australia, probably for the rest of my career."

He never questioned that, while the rewards were higher in Asia, the competition at home was much stronger and said he was currently playing his best soccer.

"I couldn't come back and play one season and say I

should be in (the Socceroos)," he said.

"I would expect I have to go another full season to show the powers that be, I can do it over an extended period."

Foster became more than a playing personality during his stay in Asia, hosting sport on Singapore TV news as well as a sports show.

His media career blossomed in Hong Kong and he currently holds down a part-time job on Channel 10 News in Adelaide coupled with studying law, through correspondence, and sports administration as one of Adelaide City's trainees.

While he was confident his playing future was in Australia, Foster, who will marry in June, said it would not necessarily be in Adelaide.

"I'll have to start looking at more of the financial side and that includes work," he said.

"Being a TV presenter, there's not a great deal of work in Adelaide and that may play a big part in where I end up playing."



Craig Foster: Midfielder who is keen to play for Australia.

WEST ADELAIDE

Worst injury toll in Blanco's career

BY PETER KRUPKA



West Adelaide coach Raul Blanco can't remember a time when he was involved in a side which had been so decimated by injuries.

Facing league leaders UTS Olympic and Marconi in the final two weeks of the season, Blanco was struggling to field a side for last Sunday's match against Olympic with five of the regular side needing fitness tests to convince him they were fit to play.

To add to the Sharks' woes, defender Con Kokkinopitis was suspended for the rest of the minor round after accumulating too many points.

"I don't recall a time when there has been so many injuries and suspensions at the one time," Blanco said.

"Every team faces suspensions, but to lose such important players is unusual."

Jim Tsekini, Hamilton Thorp, Ayrtton Andrioli and Ross Aloisi were the latest names on the injury list joining Branko

Milosevic and Cyrille Ndong-Keller, both of whom have long term injuries.

The frustrating absence of Milosevic was the hardest pill for Blanco to swallow.

Since being signed by the Sharks from Olympic on November 8 last year, the midfielder has only played 12 of the clubs 25 matches.

"He's a genius and a player who can give so much to a young squad. An old head and a player of such quality is vital."

"These are the kinds of losses which make you wonder what could be if they were there."

It has been a nagging thigh injury which has



Jim Tsekini: Tipped to be the U/21 player of the year in the Ericsson Cup.

sidelined Milosevic since joining the club and sporadic attempts to play had caused internal bleeding and the building up of scar tissue.

While Milosevic was set for his return, Ndong-Keller is certain to miss the rest of the season, having undergone his third knee operation in nine months.

"His progress has been very good but, after three operations, this time the

specialist is being very cautious," Blanco said.

"Only a miracle could get him back for the grand final — should we get there, for me, the way it looks, there's no chance."

Blanco echoed sentiments expressed by former Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic, who last week tipped Jim Tsekini to take out the National League's Under 21 award.

Tsekini, who turns 21 during the finals series, will be eligible for the award which a West Adelaide player has not won since John Kosmina in 1977.

"I knew from the beginning he was a very talented player," he said.

"He was prepared to wait and listen and when the time was right, the opportunity came and he has had a wonderful year. He now believes in his own ability."



ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Draw may not be enough for United

SYDNEY UNITED 1 MARCONI FAIRFIELD 1

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Sydney United, desperate for maximum League points to stay in the 'Top Six', despite a glut of possession as well as goalscoring chances in the second half, ultimately could only pull off a 1-1 draw against a lustreless Marconi, last Sunday at the Croatian Sports Centre.

Marconi, especially in the second half, without their suspended star-striker and team-driver Andy Harper, looked uncharacteristically tame and rarely threatened the home side. In fact after United levelled the scores, the joint-League-leaders looked well rattled and

played without confidence. United almost had Marconi again in the dying seconds with the scoreline locked at one each. Substitute striker Sean Babić strongly headed a cross well on target, only to watch in complete dismay as Marconi's tenacious skipper and sweeper Jean Paul De Marigny headed off the line.

With young goalkeeper Andrew Crews failing to come out for the second half, United had to utilise their intelligent striker David Zdrilic as a makeshift 'keeper for the entire second session. Crews was put out of action as he injured his knee ligaments in a heavy collision with Marconi's robust right midfielder Luke Casserly just before the break.

Yet most surprisingly, (and certainly unprofessionally), was the fact that Marconi completely failed to put Zdrilic under severe pressure with only long-range shots or crosses

fired across his goal-mouth. In fact Zdrilic had it easy, having only once to come quickly off his line to challenge a lurking striker and save splendidly with an outstretched boot.

Marconi's striker Francis Awaritefe who up till then was very well shackled by tight-marker Velimir Kupresak, lifted his side into the lead in the 59th minute. A dangerous cross from the right fired in by substitute defender Aaron Holst was blocked by United's usually reliable stopper Mark Babić.

Babić in attempting to lay back to his left defender Chad Gibson, allowed Awaritefe to nip in to slam into the target.

United finally stung back getting the equaliser 13 minutes later. Skilful midfielder Ante Milicic switched play to the right for substitute Robbie Markovac who easily lobbed giant goalkeeper, Bobby Catlin from inside the box.

United's effective right-

SCORERS: United: Markovac (72)
Marconi: Awaritefe (59).
YELLOW CARDS: Marconi: Stanton (34), Van Egmond (44).
POY: 3-Popovic (United)
2-Kupresak (United)
1-Van Egmond (Marconi)
REFEREE: J. Fraser.
CROWD: 6,910

back Robbie Trajkovski as early as the third minute, crossed into the goal area, but Milicic headed over the cross-bar whilst a minute later at the other end, Awaritefe latching onto a Brad Maloney ball blasted his left-footed drive wide of the far post.

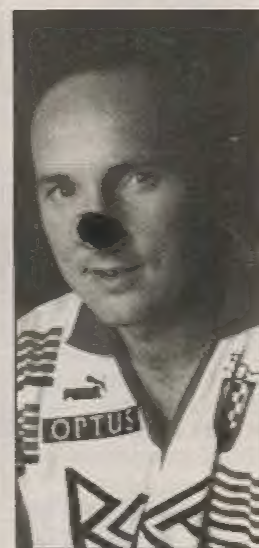
United failed with two more chances. The first came just before the break when Zdrilic headed an Ante Moric cross over the horizontal, and the second

in the 56th minute when a perfect Trajkovski cross to the far post was disappointedly again headed over by bleach-haired defender, Gibson.

Urged on from the back by twin giants Popovic and Kupresak, United came again but failed when sweeper Tony Popovic in the 68th minute combined with Robbie Enes to set up Sean Babić. Babić's drive whistled just wide of the far post with Manis Lamond flashing in a split second late.

Striker Zdrilic who filled in gallantly as United's goalkeeper for the entire second half, later stated, "I've always mucked around at training as a goalkeeper and was very surprised that Marconi didn't test me out with some shots or crosses early in the second half."

A very disappointed United coach, Branko Culina, could only once again lament, "Again we created enough chances, but again just couldn't score the



Velimir Kupresak: Sydney United's effective marker.

goals we deserved. I was pleased the way we played in the second half and I feel Marconi was in the end happy with a draw. I concede we made mistakes because of the heat prevailing."

A relieved Marconi coach, Manfred Schaefer reflected, "Under the circumstances I was very happy with a point in the end, especially when one considers that Marconi has never won here in the last five matches. Last week we played much better yet ended up coming away with nothing."

"We still want to finish in first or second spot after next Sunday when we will be at home against West Adelaide. We will have back Longo, Hristodoulou and Harper."

SYDNEY UNITED: Crews (Markovac 46), Trajkovski, Kupresak, Babić, Popovic, Gibson (S. Babić 65), Enes, Milicic, Moric, Lamond (Plesa 88), Zdrilic.

MARCONI: Catlin, Casserly (Holst 46), Van Egmond, Souris, De Marigny, Renaud, Bingley, Maloney, Stanton, (Angelucci 84), Zoric (Climent 88), Awaritefe.

Strikers on edge of great ending

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2 SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

Brisbane Strikers sealed an historic National League finals berth and remain minor premiership contenders following a dour 2-0 win over South Melbourne at Suncorp Stadium last Saturday.

A double from former Socceroo Frank Farina was enough to create soccer history for the Strikers who became the first Queensland side to make the finals of the Ericsson Cup after only three years existence.

Farina, who was closely marked throughout the first half, broke the deadlock 10 minutes after the break when he brilliantly turned South Melbourne defenders Aleks Kuzmanovic and Jean Paul Knezevic on the edge of the box.

Farina then sped away towards the near post drawing in South Melbourne defenders including goalkeeper Mike Petkovic before tucking the ball into the net.

The match, which had little to offer as a spectacle in the first half, came to life after the goal with Farina on hand 10 minutes later to produce the match winner.

Farina out-jumped the South Melbourne defence to drive home a header which tucked under the cross-bar from a Gary Phillips corner.

The Strikers now face the daunting feeling of a possible minor premiership if results go their way and they are successful in their final away match in

SCORERS: Brisbane: Farina (55, 65)
YELLOW CARDS: Brisbane: Nil
South: Kuzmanovic (38), Baser (63)
POY: 3-Farina (Brisbane)
2-Bolton (Brisbane)
1-Coveny (South Melb)
CROWD: 5,997
REFEREE: B Hugo

Sydney next week against Sydney Olympic.

For a minor premiership to occur, the Strikers will be relying on Sydney high-fliers Marconi to lose against West Adelaide.

The Strikers clearly dominated proceedings despite a tentative start and could have been considered unlucky not to have broken the first half deadlock on at least three occasions.

The best first half chance fell to Farina whose header was wide of the mark in the 24th minute after defender Glen Gwynne worked down the left flank and fired in his cross.

The Strikers again had luck go against them only one minute later when Farina and Sean Cranney combined to round the South Melbourne defence with Cranney's cross falling perfectly for midfielder Steve Jackson.

However, Jackson who normally plays a defending role was unaccustomed to the scoring position and sent his mistimed header wide of the upright.

Petkovic thwarted several strong buildups from the Strikers, none better than one from a Troy Cranney cross

which looked threatening after good leadup work by Socceroo Jason Polak.

BRISBANE STRIKERS: Bolton, Williams, Gwynne, Zoricich, Jackson, Phillips, Polak, S Cranney (Wright 72), T Cranney, Brown, Farina.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: M Petkovic, Kuzmanovic, Blatsis, Knezevic, Valkanis (Nikolic 75), Anthopoulos, Panopoulos (Sherifovski 65), Damianos, Baser, Coveny, Allsopp, (Curcija 46).



Frank Farina: His double strike takes him to 20 for season.

Sharks back in race for finals

WEST ADELAIDE 3 UTS OLYMPIC 2

BY PETER KRUPKA

UTS Olympic squandered its chance to go clear at the top of the National League table, stumbling to a 3-2 loss against West Adelaide at Hindmarsh Stadium in the penultimate minor round match.

The win helped the Sharks claw their way back into the top six while Olympic, second before round 32, slumped to fourth and West Adelaide went to sixth, displacing Sydney United.

Two stunning second half volleys in the space of four minutes by Nathan Day and Ross Aloisi capped off a joyous night for West, which knew nothing short of a win in its final home game of the season was needed to keep its finals chances alive.

Pablo Cardozo put the side on track to victory when he fed off a header from giant defender Hamilton Thorp in the penalty area to poke the ball home with his right foot.

The Sharks struck again in the 62nd minute when a searching ball from Frank Tibaldi drifted behind the Olympic defence into Day's path and the midfielder controlled his volley brilliantly to beat Mike Gibson.

Protests to referee Eugene Brazzale from the Olympic midfielders, led by Peter Tsekenis, fell on deaf ears and four minutes later the Sharks win was guaranteed when Aloisi accepted a

SCORERS: West: Cardozo (13), Day (62), Aloisi (65)
Olympic: Tome (70), Edwards (89)
YELLOW CARDS: West: Tibaldi (33), Thorp (37), Cardozo (49)
Olympic: Blagojevic (60)
POY: 3-Blazincic (West)
2-Tsekenis (West)
1-Meredith (Olympic)
CROWD: 5,225
REFEREE: E Brazzale

ball from Tsekenis 20 metres out and spectacularly dipped his shot under the cross bar.

Olympic scored its first 20 minutes from full time when Norman Tome pounced on a loose ball to header past Peter



Peter Blazincic: Saved West on a number of occasions.

Blazincic from point blank range.

Man-of-the-match Blazincic, who made a series of top saves, tipped a goal-bound header from Kimon Taliadoros on to the cross bar but could do nothing to stop Tome.

A last minute goal from Alistair Edwards kept the Hindmarsh crowd sweating as Olympic's familiar late game surge kept it in attack.

In a free-flowing match, the Sharks made the best moves but were pegged back by Olympic late in each half.

Kris Trajanovski, who has not scored in five weeks, looked dangerous five minutes before the break, firstly weaving his way into the penalty area to blast a shot which Blazincic could not hold and then pushed a difficult volley wide of the right post.

Nick Meredith provided the spark the visitors lacked in midfield early but Olympic could not put the finishing touches to moves.

Tsekenis, back for Olympic after suspension, forced a good save out of Blazincic at the near post and 10 minutes into the second half, the 'keeper performed another acrobatic save to deny Tome a goal from a free kick.

WEST: Blazincic, Alagich, Slager, Hooker, Tibaldi, Cardozo, Aloisi, Thorp, Tsekenis (Keramidas 86), Andrioli (Morrison 72), Day

OLYMPIC: Gibson, Barrett, Ciantar, Tsekenis, Taliadoros, Tome (Polmer 85), Trajanovski, Meredith (Ironside 68), Blagojevic, Baillie, Edwards

ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Wooden spoon battle to Wolves

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0 WOLLONGONG CITY 2

BY JAI McDERMOTT

Wollongong Wolves completed a rare treble over Steel City rivals Newcastle at Breakers Stadium last Friday night. A goal in each half was enough to see off the Breakers and condemn them to carry the dreaded wooden spoon until next year.

The match was billed as a 'battle royale', with the Wolves' recent revival matched by the Breakers patchy but powerful home form. However, when Mario Jerman opened the scoring after just 12 minutes it appeared Wollongong would escape being added to Newcastle's lengthening list of home scalps.

SCORERS: Newcastle Jerman (12), Perinich (36)
YELLOW CARDS: Newcastle Sprod (27), Pryce (40), Maier (62), Zane (66), Maier (68), Wollongong Brown (49), Petratos (55), Jerman (66)
GOAL: 3-Jerman (Wollongong)
2-Lowe (Newcastle)
1-Perinich (Wollongong)
CROWD: 3,865
REFEREE: W Dade

The Wolves mounted some early pressure and when Ljupo Naumovski swung in a menacing ball from the left hand side, he found an unmarked Jerman on hand to tap in.

Jerman had time and space in a crowded penalty area and his simple but precise volley punished the Breakers' poor marking.

Newcastle coach John Kosmina's decision to move former AIS defender Pete

Ritchie into midfield seemed to pay dividends, his vision and distribution complementing the vigor of dynamo Scott Thomas. The two carved out some half chances as the first half wore on, but desperate Wolves defence ensured they maintained a 1-0 lead at the break.

The Wolves defence benefitted from the dominance of goalkeeper Brett Hughes, his assured display providing much needed confidence for the visitors.

The return of Saso Dimovski from his 18 month suspension was another plus for the Wolves. His physical presence and aerial threat proved dangerous particularly in the first half. In addition, it allowed the impressive Tony Perinich to play a more influential role from deeper in midfield.

After half time the home side stepped up a gear in search of an equaliser. Increased involvement from

Troy Halpin aided the forays of captain David Lowe, back in the side after a lengthy injury layoff.

The veteran was the best of the Breakers, his experience and composure welcomed back by Kosmina's young squad.

Just 12 minutes after the restart though, the Breakers momentum was halted by a second Wollongong strike. After Newcastle failed to clear a menacing cross, a return ball from Alvin Ceccoli was met by a marauding Perinich.

The Breakers will have nightmares about the Wolves' crafty attacker. After single handedly destroying Newcastle in the previous two clashes, his volley through a crowded area in the 53rd minute once again proved decisive. It could be argued that Perinich is better suited up front, less the responsibilities of defensive duties, but his strike suggested he is coping with the recent transition



Mario Jerman: Played major part in Wolves victory.

well.

After the goal the Breakers again threatened to pull at least one back, with first Jason Bennett then Halpin missing half chances.

When Clayton Zane replaced injured defender Steve Hickman in the 64th minute the Wolves were beginning to look nervous in defence.

With pride at stake for both teams some heated exchanges led to referee Wayne Dade booking five players, some solid challenges evidence of the desperation to avoid the wooden spoon.

In the end though the Breakers' impatience proved their undoing. Despite a glut of possession and good field position John Kosmina explained that a lack of composure limited Newcastle's threat: "Only Lowie (who did really well for us) was prepared to put his foot on it. Inexperience cost us a bit. We were desperate to pull one back but we tended to rush things".

Kosmina was pleased with aspects of the performance despite the loss and his optimism suggests a much

better run for Newcastle next season: "I was pretty happy with some things we did tonight. Unfortunately we got lazy twice and got punished for it. We've got to be more patient as I said, you must force the keeper to make saves. I think if we had got one, we would have got three or four, but we've got to make more of possession."

Wolves coach Theodorakopoulos was "very happy to win away from home", adding that the positive end of season run promised good things for next year.

NEWCASTLE: Fittock, Sanderson, Hickman (Zane 64), Maier, Lowe, Halpin, Bennett, Thomas, Pryce, Sprod, Ritchie (Sharpley 83).

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Petratos, Bourke (Pollari 76), Horsley, Naumovski (Sterjovski 87), Dimoski (Whiddett 73), Perinich, Lloyd, Dihm, Jerman, Ceccoli.

Knights demolish ordinary Canberra

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 5 CANBERRA COSMOS 0

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

Melbourne Knights put the disappointment of last week's thumping by Adelaide City behind them by thrashing Canberra Cosmos 5-0. Adrian Cervinski scored twice for the Knights, his first goals since coming back from a lengthy lay off.

The scoreline, quite realistically could have been doubled, only for some fine goalkeeping by Tony Giannasca.

Knights coach Ian Dobson says the result and the performance in particular will give him headaches over selection with a number of players soon available.

Dobson also said that when Joe Spiteri returns from Soccerroo duty he will have to fight for a position like the rest of the players.

"He will come back into the squad, not straight into the starting lineup.

"Joe Spiteri has shown that he wants to look after himself, that was the motive behind his decision.

The form of Cervinski and the impressive showing by Tom Pondeljak plus the return of Ollie Pondeljak will only add to the problems Dobson is facing with team selection.

Andrew Marth fired the Knights into the lead in the 16th minute from Tom Pondeljak's

SCORERS: Knights: Marth (16), Kovacevic (51), A. Cervinski (77, 82), T. Pondeljak (49)
YELLOW CARDS: Knights: Vojtek (41), A. Cervinski (77), Cosmos: Kelly (56), Koch (66)
RED CARDS: Cosmos: Kelly (64)
GOAL: 3-T. Pondeljak (Knights)
2-A. Cervinski (Knights)
1-Giannasca (Cosmos)
CROWD: 3,310
REFEREE: E. Leslie

through ball.

Giannasca managed to keep the Knights to just one goal in the first half but was under constant pressure the whole time in keeping Adrian Cervinski in particular at bay.

Defender Ante Kovacevic added a goal soon after half time, heading in a Tom Pondeljak cross.

The game was then blown wide open with the expulsion of Cosmos midfielder Norman Kelly with a second yellow card just eight minutes after he received his first one.

Cervinski had been trying all game but finally beat Giannasca in the 77th minute after a Tom Pondeljak shot had been cleared.

Ollie Pondeljak this time set up Cervinski with a perfectly measured pass into his path to slide the ball past Giannasca.

Tom Pondeljak finally got some reward with a goal a minute from time following a dreadful kick out by Giannasca.

"It was a one sided affair, I was happy to get five goals because it

does our goal difference good" Dobson said.

"Now when we go to Wollongong next week we hope we can do the same job."

"We got what we deserved today and I hope my players realise that," a disappointed Mike Lyons said.

"That to me was our most disappointing performance this season

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: Juric, Buljbasic (Nastevski 85), De Amicis, D. Cervinski, Marth, Simunic, Lapsansky, Vojtek (O. Pondeljak 77), Kovacevic, A. Cervinski, T. Pondeljak.

CANBERRA COSMOS: Giannasca, Dee (N. Popovich 70), Watson, Dunn, Kelly, Armstrong, Castro, Koch, Musitano (Perinovic 30), Lemezina, Mazis.



Andrew Marth: Started the goal glut.

Tense goal-less draw stops Zebras

MORWELL FALCONS 0 ADELAIDE CITY 0

BY CON STAVROS

Adelaide City's championship hopes are in disarray after they were held to a scoreless draw by Morwell Falcons.

A stirring defensive performance by the Falcons has put the pressure on the Zebras going into this week's final round match against Sydney United. With most slots still open amongst the top rungs, Adelaide may look back on this match as the lost points in a dramatic chase for a position amongst the top two that has now seen them go 14 matches unbeaten.

The result was treated with the jubilation of a great victory by Morwell, who have had a torrid time against Adelaide over the years, including two thrashings this season.

The Falcons' performance was especially meritorious given the absence of key players, particularly in attack where they were nothing more than pop-gun power.

Aside from the absence of Soccerroo Ernie Tapai, the Falcons also did without Warren Spink (Soccerroos), Brian Bothwell (suspended), Claudio Canosa (suspended) and Esala Masi (injured).

Despite the result, the night was sour for the Falcons on the injury front, with debutant striker Manoa Masi stretched off in the first half. The Fijian international, who is a

SCORERS: N
YELLOW CARDS: Morwell Fina 79
Adelaide Foster (64)
GOAL: 3-Talladira (Morwell)
2-Marcina (Morwell)
1-Vonono (Adelaide)
CROWD: 1826
REFEREE: C. Naumcevski

cousin of Esala Masi, had only played 40 minutes of National League before injuring his left knee lunging for a loose ball.

The Falcons ended up using defender Scott Miller in attack as their options deteriorated.

Adelaide City were also impotent in attack however, especially considering they had racked up scores of 4-0 and 5-0 against the same side earlier in the year.

Clearly the difference was the



Carlo Talladira: Outstanding first half for the Falcons.

absence of suspended forward Damian Mori, who netted five of those nine goals.

Adelaide only really looked threatening in the middle and latter stages of the second half as their predicament sank in.

Morwell for their part looked unlikely to score all evening, preferring to sit back and counter-attack in a style more appropriate to the visitors. The move clearly worked however, with the efforts of unheralded Doug Marcina providing solid defence and quickly rebounding attacking options.

Adelaide's best period came with the abandonment of the sweeper's role by Milan Ivanovic, who took up a roaming position behind the main strike pair. Given Morwell's timid attack that was being handled effortlessly by Mark Yates and Alex Tobin, Ivanovic could have and probably should have filled that role much earlier.

Brad Hassell looked lost without Mori and Goran Lozanovski was unusually quiet, allowing his former teammate, Carlo Talladira, to shine.

Talladira had a point to prove to his old club and did a superb job, particularly in the first half, orchestrating the tempo of the match.

MORWELL FALCONS: Kourtis, Marcina, Miller, Waddell, Talladira, Villani, Reda, Douglas, Mangos, Masi (Cummings 41), Craig.

ADELAIDE CITY: Petkovic, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Hassell, Lozanovski, Costanzo, Armour, Mennillo, Brazzale (Perin 64), Foster.

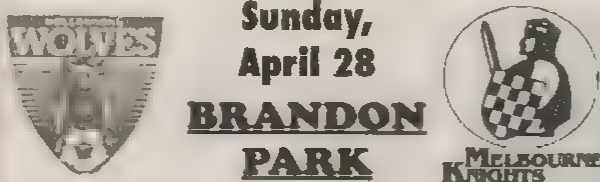
ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Wollongong City

Melbourne Knights



Sunday,
April 28

BRANDON
PARK

WOLVES	Pos	GMS (I RES)	GLS	YC (I RC)
Brett Hughes	G	31 (0)	0	3 (1)
Steve Angelov	G	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Martin Bourke	D	31 (0)	0	4 (0)
Matthew Dihm	D	14 (3)	0	1 (0)
Steve Forshaw	D	11 (1)	1	2 (1)
Bill Gjakovski	D	15 (7)	1	3 (1)
Mile Sterovski	D	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Ian Pollari	D	9 (3)	0	2 (0)
George Jolevski	D	13 (3)	0	2 (1)
Richard Lloyd	D	22 (2)	2	4 (0)
Mike O'Shea	D	11 (0)	0	5 (0)
Joe Vrkic *	D	5 (1)	0	3 (0)
Paul Beltrame *	M	6 (3)	0	2 (0)
Mineo Bonetig	M	5 (12)	1	2 (0)
Matthew Borg	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alvin Ceccoli	M	13 (2)	2	1 (0)
Claudio Cellini	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Stephen Laybutt	M	0 (7)	0	0 (0)
Pedro Ricoy	M	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Matt Horsley	M	30 (0)	0	1 (0)
Lupco Naumovski	M	28 (0)	2	3 (0)
Angelo Petratos	M	15 (12)	2	5 (1)
Trevor Whiddett	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Saso Dimoski	S	5 (0)	0	1 (0)
Mario Jermen	S	17 (6)	8	2 (0)
Colin Luff	S	4 (11)	1	0 (0)
Tony Perinich	S	32 (0)	9	2 (0)
Stuart McClaren	S	7 (2)	0	2 (0)
Rob Middleby	S	12 (2)	0	2 (2)

Beltrame's stats include 4 full, 3 sub apps, 2 y c for Marconi Vrkic made 1 sub app for Syd Utd.

Head to head: Knights 10-0-8, Goals (18-18)
Wolves at home: 6-0-3, Goals (15-6)

RECORD

WOLVES	KNIGHTS
Record Score: 4-1 (H) 1988.	Record Score: 3-0 (H) 1989-1990.
LAST 5 MATCHES At home: 0-2-3	LAST 5 MATCHES Away: 3-0-2

KNIGHTS	Pos	GMS (I RES)	GLS	YC (I RC)
Frank Juric	G	32 (0)	0	1 (0)
Vinko Buljubasic	D	28 (1)	1	6 (0)
Zoran Markovski	D	13 (4)	0	4 (0)
David Cervinski	D	30 (0)	2	7 (0)
Fausto De Amicis	D	30 (0)	0	3 (0)
Branko Bacak	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Damien Grganovic	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ante Kovacevic	D	25 (2)	1	3 (0)
Andrew Marth	D	29 (0)	9	7 (1)
Lubo Lapsansky	M	28 (1)	3	7 (0)
Idriz Pelia	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Mark Silic	M	15 (0)	0	2 (0)
Josip Simunic	M	14 (0)	0	0 (0)
Danny Tiatto	M	17 (11)	0	4 (1)
Damian Vojtek	M	7 (14)	2	2 (0)
Joe Bacak *	S	8 (7)	1	1 (0)
Adrian Cervinski	S	5 (0)	2	1 (0)
Ice Kutlesovski	S	8 (13)	6	1 (0)
John Markovski	S	13 (1)	3	4 (0)
Ollie Pondeljak	S	4 (5)	0	0 (0)
Joe Spiteri	S	23 (1)	9	7 (0)
Tom Pondeljak	U	17 (5)	8	0 (0)
Dragi Nasteviski	U	6 (5)	0	2 (0)

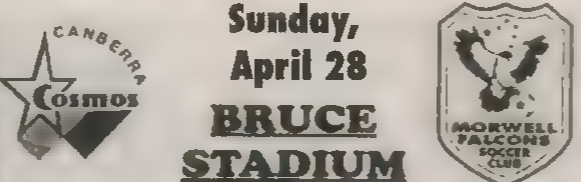
* Joe Bacak's stats include 5 full and 6 substitute appearances, 1 goal + 1 yellow card for Olympic.

ABSW TIPS

- (90) Alistair Russell: Knights
(76) John Economos: Knights
(97) Greg Blake: Knights
(94) Con Stavros: Knights
(73) Bob Brooks: Draw

Canberra Cosmos

Morwell Falcons



Sunday,
April 28

BRUCE
STADIUM

CANBERRA	Pos	GMS (I RES)	GLS	YC (I RC)
Steve Mautone	G	20 (0)	0	1 (0)
Tony Giannasca	G	8 (0)	0	0 (0)
Ben Harris	G	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Danny Milosevic	G	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Paul Dee	D	28 (1)	1	5 (0)
Stan Dukic	D	8 (5)	0	1 (0)
Peter Mazis	D	17 (0)	1	3 (0)
Richard Watson	D	22 (1)	0	3 (0)
Jason Dunn	D	26 (0)	2	6 (1)
Joe Galletti	D	4 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Wade	D	27 (0)	11	2 (0)
Jim Baxter	M	5 (4)	0	1 (0)
Alex Castro	M	14 (1)	3	2 (0)
Gus Cerro	M	6 (0)	0	1 (0)
Norman Kelly	M	19 (0)	2	7 (1)
John Koch	M	25 (0)	0	3 (0)
Arsenije Popovich	M	3 (6)	1	1 (0)
Toplica Popovich	M	17 (1)	0	6 (0)
Willie Hastie	M	3 (1)	0	1 (0)
Paul McVitie	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Musitano	M	24 (2)	6	4 (1)
Lachlan Armstrong	M	19 (0)	5	6 (1)
Michael Garcia	M	10 (1)	0	0 (0)
Njegosh Popovich	M	3 (2)	0	1 (0)
Tony Lemezina	S	12 (9)	3	2 (0)
Marko Perinovic	S	25 (2)	6	9 (0)

Head to Head: Canberra 1-1-0, Goals (6-1)
Canberra at home: 1-0-0, Goals (5-0)

RECORD

CANBERRA	MORWELL
Record Score: 5-0 (H) 1995-1996.	Record Score: N/A.
LAST 5 MATCHES At home: 2-2-1	LAST 5 MATCHES Away: 0-0-5

MORWELL	Pos	GMS (I RES)	GLS	YC (I RC)
Jim Kourtis	G	30 (0)	0	0 (0)
Jason Dastey	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Claudio Canosa	D	22 (3)	1	11 (0)
David Craig	D	3 (7)	0	1 (0)
Sean Douglas	D	23 (1)	1	4 (0)
Alex Cummings	D	10 (5)	0	1 (0)
Justin Geri	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Steve Mangos*	D	8 (4)	1	0 (0)
Scott Miller	D	29 (0)	2	5 (1)
Doug Marcina	D	32 (0)	0	2 (0)
John Waddell	D	27 (0)	1	3 (0)
James Alesi	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sonny Sevin	M	25 (1)	2	2 (0)
Marc Stergiopoulos	M	9 (13)	1	4 (0)
Carlo Talladira *	M	17 (7)	0	1 (0)
Ernie Tapai	M	27 (0)	3	10 (1)
Zoran Todorovski	M	1 (6)	0	0 (0)
Brian Bothwell	S	25 (1)	5	9 (0)
Rob Despotovski	S	1 (5)	1	0 (0)
Michael Reda	S	21 (9)	2	5 (0)
Warren Spink	S	25 (0)	8	2 (0)
Carlo Villani	S	9 (11)	3	0 (0)
Esala Masi	S	11 (0)	4	0 (0)

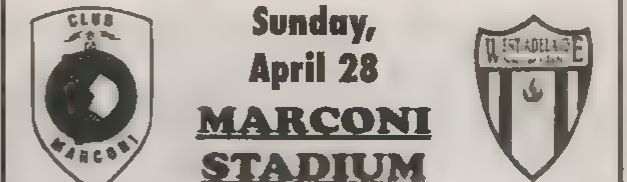
* Carlo Talladira's stats include 2 full and 7 substitute appearances for Adelaide City
* Steve Mangos' stats include 4 full, 3 substitute appearances and 1 goal for Souths.

ABSW TIPS

- (90) Alistair Russell: Draw
(76) John Economos: Canberra
(97) Greg Blake: Canberra
(94) Con Stavros: Canberra
(73) Bob Brooks: Canberra

Marconi Fairfield

West Adelaide



Sunday,
April 28

MARCONI
STADIUM

MARCONI	Pos	GMS (I RES)	GLS	YC (I RC)
Bob Catlin	G	32 (0)	0	0 (0)
Luke Casserly	D	17 (6)	0	4 (1)
J P De Marigny	D	28 (0)	0	8 (0)
Aaron Holst	D	7 (6)	0	1 (0)
Darren Iocca	D	1 (5)	0	2 (0)
Dominic Longo	D	21 (0)	1	5 (1)
Mike Smith	D	17 (0)	5	5 (0)
Paul Souris	D	27 (4)	0	1 (0)
Robert Stanton	D	18 (10)	0	3 (0)
Gary Van Egmond	D	13 (1)	0	4 (0)
Matt Bingley	M	26 (1)	8	0 (0)
Ramon Climent	M	3 (4)	0	1 (0)
Eric Hristodoulou	M	23 (7)	4	2 (0)
Brad Maloney	M	30 (2)	5	2 (0)
Andrew Ravanallo	M	0 (2)	0	1 (0)
Brendan Renaud	M	14 (8)	5	2 (0)
Vlado Zoric	M	11 (12)	1	1 (0)
Andy Harper	S	29 (0)	13	6 (0)
Francis Awaritefe	S	30 (1)	12	5 (0)
Darren McDonald	S	0 (3)	0	0 (0)
John Angelucci	S	0 (3)	0	0 (0)

Head to Head: Marconi 15-4-7, Goals (41-27)
Marconi at home: 9-2-2, Goals (30-17)

RECORD

MARCONI	WEST AD
Record Score: 6-2 (H) 1992-1993.	Record Score: 3-1 (A) 1983.
LAST 5 MATCHES At home: 4-1-0	LAST 5 MATCHES Away: 3-1-1

WEST AD	Pos	GMS (I RES)	GLS	YC (I RC)
Peter Blazincic	G	32 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Haniotis	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Robbie Hooker	D	29 (0)	4	4 (0)
Rechat Mezensof	D	0 (9)	1	0 (0)
Con Kokkinoplitis	D	25 (0)	0	5 (0)
Frank Tibaldi	D	27 (0)	0	7 (1)
Robbie Slager	D	30 (0)	2	5 (0)
Richie Alagich	M	30 (1)	0	2 (0)
Ross Aloisi	M	30 (0)	4	8 (0)
Ayrton Andrioli	M	12 (5)	2	2 (0)
Jim Keramidas	M	9 (7)	1	0 (0)
Pablo Cardozo	M	27 (2)	10	7 (0)
Atthan Lekkas	M	2 (5)	0	1 (0)
Scott Morrison	M	4 (5)	0	2 (0)
Branko Milosevic *	M	14 (2)	0	2 (0)
Hamilton Thorpe	M	16 (5)	0	3 (0)
Jim Tsekinis	S	30 (1)	15	3 (0)
Jose Iriarte	S	9 (8)	0	3 (0)
C Ndongo-Keller	S	3 (2)	4	0 (0)
Nathan Day	U	19 (9)	5	5 (0)

* Branko Milosevic Stats include 2 full and 2 substitute appearances for UTS Olympic

ABSW TIPS

- (90) Alistair Russell: Marconi
(76) John Economos: Marconi
(97) Greg Blake: Marconi
(94) Con Stavros: Marconi
(73) Bob Brooks: Marconi

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

UTS Olympic v Brisbane Strikers

Sunday,
April 28

LEICHHARDT
OVAL



OLYMPIC	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
(I) RES				(I) RC
George Bouhoutsos	G	9 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Gibson	G	23 (0)	0	0 (0)
Scott Baillie	D	12 (1)	1	4 (0)
Dave Barrett	D	31 (0)	0	4 (0)
Milan Blagojevic	D	27 (0)	0	8 (0)
Adam Ciantar	D	28 (0)	1	1 (1)
Nick Meredith	D	26 (1)	2	10 (0)
George Sorras	D	3 (7)	0	2 (0)
Ivan Zelic	D	9 (2)	0	1 (0)
Walter Ardone	M	24 (2)	2	6 (1)
Elias Augerinos	M	7 (14)	2	2 (0)
Robbie Ironside	M	0 (3)	1	0 (0)
Kris Trajanovski	M	31 (0)	18	2 (0)
Peter Tsekenis	M	24 (0)	1	5 (0)
George Valas	M	0 (3)	0	0 (0)
Raphael Bove	U	1 (6)	0	0 (0)
Alistair Edwards	S	10 (3)	2	1 (0)
Ivo De Jesus	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Norman Tome	S	29 (1)	9	4 (0)
Kim Taliadoros	S	25 (2)	7	2 (0)
Chris Slater *	S	5 (8)	1	1 (0)
Derek Poimer	S	8 (6)	2	3 (0)
Carlos Gonzalez	S	0 (3)	0	0 (0)

* Chris Slater's stats include 1 full and 2 substitute appearances for Brisbane.

Head to Head: Olympic 5-2-3, Goals (13-12)
Olympic at home: 3-2-0, Goals (5-1)

RECORD

OLYMPIC	BRISBANE
Record Score: 2-0 (H) 1992-1993. LAST 5 MATCHES At home: 3-1-1	Record Score: 3-1 (H) 1995-1996. LAST 5 MATCHES Away: 1-1-3

BRISBANE	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
(I) RES				(I) RC
Clint Bolton	G	32 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Brayshaw	D	12 (10)	1	3 (1)
Glen Gwynne	D	10 (0)	0	2 (0)
Alan Hunter	D	26 (0)	2	1 (0)
Steve Jackson	D	15 (2)	0	5 (0)
Chris Zoricich	D	27 (2)	3	5 (1)
Craig Williams	D	18 (6)	1	2 (0)
Mark Battistin	D	20 (6)	3	4 (0)
Sean Cranney	M	18 (0)	3	2 (0)
Troy Cranney	M	32 (0)	1	1 (0)
Brad Ditton	M	6 (7)	1	1 (0)
Chay Hews	M	4 (9)	0	0 (0)
Gary Phillips	M	26 (0)	1	1 (0)
Jason Polak	M	29 (1)	4	3 (0)
Danny Wright	M	15 (7)	1	3 (0)
Reece Tollenaere	S	2 (6)	0	0 (0)
Rod Brown	S	30 (0)	12	2 (0)
Frank Farina	S	27 (0)	19	5 (1)
Kasey Wehrman	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

ABSW TIPS

(90) Alistair Russell: Olympic
(76) John Economos: Draw
(97) Greg Blake: Olympic
(94) Con Stavros: Olympic
(73) Bob Brooks: Olympic

South Melbourne v Newcastle Breakers

Sunday,
April 28

BOB JANE
STADIUM



SOUTHS	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
(I) RES				(I) RC
Dean Anastasiadis	G	15 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Liliakakis	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Petkovic	G	15 (0)	0	0 (0)
Con Anthopoulos	D	17 (5)	1	4 (0)
Alan Davidson	D	7 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Duric	D	3 (2)	0	3 (0)
Kevin Muscat	D	10 (0)	0	3 (0)
Nick Orlic*	D	22 (5)	1	5 (0)
Jean Paul Knezevic	D	15 (0)	0	2 (0)
Alex Kuzmanovic	D	28 (0)	0	6 (1)
Nick Papadopoulos	D	4 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Valkanis	D	11 (1)	0	5 (0)
Paul Trimboli	M	27 (1)	7	1 (0)
Tansel Baser	M	18 (5)	0	4 (0)
Con Blatsis	M	16 (2)	1	7 (2)
Bill Damianos	M	20 (9)	5	1 (0)
Sasa Nikolic	M	5 (14)	0	2 (0)
Steve Panopoulos	M	24 (2)	6	5 (0)
Mike Petersen	M	27 (0)	0	7 (0)
Daniel Allsopp	S	12 (1)	1	0 (0)
Vaughan Coveny	S	26 (0)	10	3 (1)
Michael Curcija	S	6 (7)	4	2 (0)
Ivan Kelic	S	14 (2)	7	1 (0)
Craig Lewis	S	3 (14)	1	4 (0)
Agim Sherifovski	S	13 (9)	2	3 (1)

* Orlic's stats include 12 full, 4 substitute appearances and 1 yc for UTS Olympic

Head to Head: Souths 4-2-2, Goals (18-12)
Souths at home: 2-2-0, Goals (9-4)

RECORD

SOUTHS	NEWCASTLE
Record Score: 4-1 (H) + (A) 1993-1994. LAST 5 MATCHES At home: 4-0-1	Record Score: 4-2 (H) 1995-1996. LAST 5 MATCHES Away: 0-0-5

NEWCASTLE	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
(I) RES				(I) RC
Craig Carter	G	24 (0)	0	3 (0)
Adam Fittock	G	8 (2)	0	0 (0)
Adam Sanderson	D	22 (1)	1	2 (0)
Steve Hickman	D	26 (1)	0	8 (2)
Nick Johns	D	1 (3)	0	0 (0)
Ralph Maier	D	32 (0)	0	4 (0)
Glen Moore	D	8 (2)	0	2 (0)
Shane Pryce	D	18 (2)	1	7 (0)
Peter Ritchie	D	14 (0)	0	1 (0)
Andy Roberts	D	21 (1)	0	4 (0)
Ryan Smith	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Linkon Knott	D	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Glen Sprod	D	23 (3)	2	3 (0)
Darren Stewart	D	9 (0)	1	4 (0)
Gary Wilson	M	9 (0)	0	3 (0)
Craig Sharpley	M	22 (4)	0	3 (0)
Damian Brown	M	12 (4)	2	0 (0)
Troy Halpin	M	16 (3)	5	8 (0)
Scott Thomas	M	15 (6)	2	4 (1)
Jason Bennett	S	25 (1)	8	1 (0)
David Lowe	S	20 (6)	5	2 (0)
Harry James	S	3 (4)	1	0 (0)
Clayton Zane	S	22 (6)	5	4 (1)

ABSW TIPS

(90) Alistair Russell: Souths
(76) John Economos: Newcastle
(97) Greg Blake: Souths
(94) Con Stavros: Souths
(73) Bob Brooks: Souths

Adelaide City v Sydney United

Sunday,
April 28

HINDMARSH
STADIUM



AD CITY	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
(I) RES				(I) RC
Jason Petkovic	G	32 (0)	0	0 (0)
Milan Ivanovic	D	31 (0)	0	4 (0)
Sasha Nedeljkovic	D	8 (4)	0	4 (1)
Alex Tobin	D	29 (0)	3	3 (0)
Brad Armour	D	28 (0)	1	7 (0)
Joel Marino	D	1 (1)	0	1 (0)
Mark Yates	D	28 (2)	0	3 (0)
Mark Brazzale *	M	14 (3)	0	4 (0)
Angelo Costanzo	M	9 (13)	0	0 (0)
Craig Foster	M	18 (0)	7	3 (0)
John Gibson	M	22 (0)	1	3 (0)
Goran Lozanovski	M	31 (0)	1	6 (0)
Dino Mennillo	M	16 (11)	2	4 (0)
Jamie Perin	M	13 (3)	0	3 (1)
Michael Perone	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Brad Hassell	S	30 (1)	13	0 (0)
Damian Mori	S	31 (0)	31	3 (0)
Joe Mullen	S	8 (1)	3	1 (0)
Kosta Salapasis	U	6 (14)	0	0 (0)
Adrian Landorio	U	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

* Mark Brazzale's stats include 5 full and 1 substitute appearance for West Adelaide.

Head to Head: Level 6-9-6, Goals (Ad C 27-25)
Ad City at home: 3-4-3, Goals (10-13)

RECORD

AD CITY	SYD UTD
Record Score: 3-0 (H) 1994-1995. LAST 5 MATCHES At home: 4-1-0	Record Score: 3-1 (H) 1993-1994. LAST 5 MATCHES Away: 1-2-2

SYD UTD	Pos	Gms	Gls	YC
(I) RES				(I) RC
John Perosh	G	26 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Crews	G	6 (1)	0	0 (0)
Mark Babic	D	27 (0)	0	4 (0)
Paul Bilokapic	D	26 (0)	1	8 (0)
Velimir Kupresak	D	31 (0)	0	5 (0)
Richard Plesa	D	13 (6)	1	3 (0)
Tony Popovic	D	25 (0)	4	4 (1)
Mark Rudan	D	12 (8)	2	3 (0)
Robert Enes	M	29 (0)	0	8 (1)
Aytek Genc	M	19 (0)	3	5 (1)
Chad Gibson	M	5 (2)	1	2 (0)
Ante Moric	M	21 (0)	1	2 (1)
Jim Patikas	M	12 (5)	1	2 (0)
Robert Trajkovski	M	8 (2)	0	1 (0)
Robert Markovac	M	13 (9)	4	2 (0)
Dominic Usalj	M	2 (5)	0	0 (0)
James Aschner	S	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Sean Babic	S	7 (18)	6	4 (0)
Manis Lamond	S	12 (11)	6	2 (0)
Ante Milicic	S	28 (3)	6	2 (0)
David Zdrilic	S	30 (1)	8	2 (0)

ABSW TIPS

(90) Alistair Russell: Ad City
(76) John Economos: Ad City
(97) Greg Blake: Draw
(94) Con Stavros: Draw
(73) Bob Brooks: Ad City



SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

Adamstown R'bud	1	Bankstown City Lions	0
L McGuire 66m		Leichhardt Tigers	4
St George Saints	0	M Zec 3m	
		S Cleary 69/74m	
		T Krslovic 83m	
Illawarra Lions	0	Sutherland Sharks	4
		A Dowling 18m	
		T Cabassi 30m	
		S Clinch 48m	
		S Porter 76m	
Canterbury M'ville B	0	Rockdale City Suns	2
		E Williams 22/46m	
Parramatta Eagles	1	Central Coast	2
B Kuleski 85m		D Melverton 39m	
		M Drysdale 61m	
Macarthur Rams	1	Blacktown City	0
B McGregor 7m			
Warringah Dolphins	2	Bonnyrigg WE	2
S Panetta 26m		M Ninkovic 6m (Pen)	
P Moss 88m (Pen)		D Petrovic 71m	

UNDER 21

Adamstown R'bud	1	Bankstown City Lions	3
St George Saints	0	Leichhardt Tigers	3
Illawarra Lions	0	Sutherland Sharks	4
Canterbury M'ville B	1	Rockdale City Suns	3
Parramatta Eagles	1	Central Coast	2
Macarthur Rams	2	Blacktown City	1
Warringah Dolphins	1	Bonnyrigg WE	0

SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Adamstown R'buds	11	7	1	3	17	11	22
Sutherland Sharks	11	5	6	0	18	9	21
Warringah Dolphins	11	5	5	1	23	11	20
Leichhardt Tigers	11	6	2	3	18	13	20
Parramatta Eagles	11	6	1	4	19	11	19
Central Coast	11	5	3	3	19	17	18
Bonnyrigg WE	11	4	5	2	26	23	17
Bankstown City	11	5	1	5	24	18	16
Blacktown City	11	4	4	3	16	10	16
St George Saints	11	3	3	5	10	18	12
Rockdale City Suns	11	3	2	6	16	24	11
Canterbury Berries	11	2	3	6	17	25	9
Illawarra Lions	11	1	4	6	12	25	7
Macarthur Rams	11	1	0	10	4	24	3

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

Penrith Panthers	2	Belmore Hercules	1
West Wanderers	2	Bathurst 75	1
Hills United	2	Sydney Cosmos	4
Stanmore Hawks	0	Dulwich Hill	1
Auburn United	3	Fairfield Bulls	2
Ryde City	2	Mt Pritchard	0
Southern Minotaurs	1	Mt Druff Town	2

UNDER 21

Penrith Panthers	2	Belmore Hercules	1
West Wanderers	3	Bathurst 75	2
Hills United	0	Sydney Cosmos	1
Stanmore Hawks	4	Dulwich Hill	0
Auburn United	2	Fairfield Bulls	1
Ryde City	4	Mt Pritchard	0
Southern Minotaurs	3	Mt Druff Town	0

UNDER 18

Penrith Panthers	1	Belmore Hercules	1
West Wanderers	0	Bathurst 75	2
Hills United	2	Sydney Cosmos	2
Stanmore Hawks	1	Dulwich Hill	1
Auburn United	2	Fairfield Bulls	3
Ryde City	2	Mt Pritchard	0
Southern Minotaurs	0	Mt Druff Town	0

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney Cosmos	7	4	2	1	17	6	14
Penrith Panthers	7	4	2	1	17	10	14
Bathurst 75	7	4	2	1	12	7	14
Hills United	7	4	0	3	12	12	12
Belmore Hercules	7	3	2	2	13	7	11
Ryde City	7	3	2	2	14	11	11
Auburn United	7	3	2	2	15	14	11
Mt Pritchard	7	2	3	2	12	11	9
Dulwich Hill	7	2	2	3	8	9	8
Sthn Minotaurs	7	2	2	3	9	12	8
West Wanderers	7	2	2	3	9	15	8
Mt Druff Town	7	2	1	4	10	21	7
Fairfield Bulls	7	2	0	5	11	12	6
Stanmore Hawks	7	0	2	5	6	18	2

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

Greystanes	2	Hurstville	2
Granville G'sland	2	Trasandinos	2
Concord Jnrs	6	Liverpool City	1
AC United	1	Alexandria War	0
Sydney District	2	Parramatta City	0
Uni of NSW	2	Prairewood Utd	2

UNDER 21

Greystanes	5	Hurstville	1
Granville G'sland	3	Trasandinos	4
Concord Jnrs	6	Liverpool City	3

Macarthur gain first victory



Macarthur Rams 1 Blacktown City Demons 0

Macarthur Rams recorded its first points of the season when they held out Blacktown City Demons by the only goal of the game on Sunday.

A seventh minute goal by Brandon McGregor proving the difference between the two sides. McGregor was strong in winning a 50-50 midfield ball and then used his speed to split the Demons defence before placing his shot wide of the outstretched John Crawley.

Blacktown were not without their chances as they mounted several attacks on the Rams goal as firstly Steve Berry put in a dangerous cross after making good ground down the right flank but fortunately for the Rams it found the head of defender Danny Cerjak who cleared comfortably. Martin Anderson broke down the left side shortly after and his cross was met by Ben Driene whose header saw the first of many fine saves from the in-form David Hayes.

Ben Green was almost through for the Rams in the 20th minute after receiving a great ball from Stan Suman only to see his path closed by a desperate Blacktown defence. The demons continued to pressure and

Hayes was again called into action to intercept a goalbound headed by Antony Versi after a good cross by Anderson. The Rams were reduced to 10 men in the 35th minute after midfielder Tony Telisman received his marching orders for retaliation after a late tackle.

Just before half-time Hayes produced the save of the match to tip over an Anderson header after defender Steve Sweeney had conceded a corner.

The second half saw desperate defending by the Rams as being a man short they fell in behind the ball and waited for Blacktown to come at them. The first real chance came the Demons way in the 53rd minute when a Versi header hit the bar and rebounded for Anderson to head toward goal producing a great save by Hayes as he tipped the ball over.

Some 10 minutes later the Demons again found the woodwork, this time a drive by Driene hit the post. Just a couple of minutes later Hayes produced a finger-tip

save to turn a powerful drive by Anderson around the post.

In a rare foray into the Blacktown front third the Rams had a chance to seal the match in the 72nd minute when Warren Hayward got a shot off from 20m that forced Crawley to produce a fine save. The last 10 minutes was nail-biting stuff as the Demons attacked the Rams goal only to see some desperate defence notably by Cerjak and Vlado Radic

Parramatta Eagles 1 Central Coast 2

Parramatta Eagles' Chances of securing the first grand final position of the NSW Super League suffered a serious setback when they were beaten 2-1 by Central Coast at Melita Stadium on Sunday.

The loss saw the Eagles slip to fifth place, three points behind new League leader Adamstown Rosebud which beat Bankstown City 1-0 in Newcastle.

Central Coast has knocked off a host of very experienced teams in the past month and was not overawed by the Eagles.

The Coasties in fact were missing six first team regulars but took the lead shortly before halftime when Damien Brown raced on to a great pass from Nathan Bryn and his volley from the edge of the area gave Eagles keeper Jason homes absolutely no chance.

They extended their lead in the 61st minute with Brown's near-post corner flicked on by captain Mark Drysdale into the top corner.

Parramatta, which never really seriously threatened the Coasties' goal, did pull a goal back five minutes from time when Blagoje Kuleski struck home a free kick from 25 metres but by then the game was gone.

Illawarra Lions 0 Sutherland Sharks 4

Sutherland Shire look the team most likely to threaten Adamstown at the top, moving to a point behind after a comprehensive 4-0 win over Illawarra Lions.

Andrew Dowling and Tony Cabassi scored in the first half, Shane Clinch and Stuart Porter completed the rout.

Sutherland, still undefeated this season, look to have the easiest draw with two games remaining in the first round.

AC United	2	Alexandria Warr	1
Sydney District	3	Parramatta City	1
Uni of NSW	2	Prairewood Ld	0

UNDER 18

Greystanes	0	Hurstville	1
Granville G'sland	8	Trasandinos	3
Concord Jnrs	2	Liverpool City	1
AC United	2	Alexandria War	2
Sydney District	P	Parramatta City	P
Uni of NSW	2	Prairewood Utd	2

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Greystanes	5	4	1	0	16	5	13
Sydney District	5	4	1	0	12	5	13
Alexandria Warrior	5	2	2	1	18	7	8
Hurstville	5	1	4	0	7	5	7
Trasandinos	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Alexandria Warrior	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
AC United	5	1	3	1	4	5	6
Prairewood	5	1	2	2	4	7	5
Granville G'sland	5	1	2	2	9	20	5
Uni of NSW	5	0	4	1	5	6	4
Parramatta City	5	0	2	3	2	6	2
Concord Juniors	4	1	2	1	12	6	5
Liverpool City	5	0	1	4	6	16	1

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE FIRST GRADE

Glebe Wanderers	0	Gladesville United	2
Prospect United	0	Moorebank Sports	4
St John's Park	0	Earlwood Hermes	1
Colo Colo	0	Hakoah	2
Sporting SCC	3	The Wanderers	5

SECOND GRADE

Glebe Wanderers	1	Gladesville United	2
Prospect United	1	Moorebank Sports	1
St John's Park	1	Earlwood Hermes	4
Colo Colo	4	Hakoah	1
Sporting SCC	2	The Wanderers	0

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR FIRST GRADE

Lithgow Workmen	2	CSI Schofields	1
Arncliffe Scots	12	Fairfield Kings	2
Canley Vale	1	Fraser Park	1
	2	Sydney Uni	3
Marrickville Reds	1	Angels Liverpool	1
Springwood	2	St Josephs	0

SECOND GRADE

Lithgow Workmen	0	CSI Schofields	0
Arncliffe Scots	3	Fairfield Kings	1
Canley Vale	1	Fraser Park	6
Belman	1	Sydney Uni	2
Marrickville Reds	0	Angels Liverpool	2
Springwood	2	St Josephs	1

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE/SIX FIRST GRADE

Maroubra United	1	United Eagles	1
Queens Park	0	Racing	5
Ava United	2	Nepean District	1
Blacktown Premier	2	Homenetmen	0
Bossy	2	NSW Police	0
Camden	1	Gladesville Hornsby	3
Kosciusko	2	UWS Macarthur	2

SECOND GRADE

Maroubra United	1	United Eagles	0
Queens Park	0	Racing	3
Ava United	3	Nepean District	5
Blacktown Premier	0	Homenetmen	3
Bossy	0	NSW Police	3
Camden	0	Gladesville Hornsby	4
Kosciusko	2	UWS Macarthur	3

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO — FIRST

Macquarie District	2	Blacktown City	1
Northern NSW ITC	6	Gladesville Ravens	1
UWS Macarthur	3	Sutherland Shire	0
Marcon	1	Sydney Cosmos	2
NSW ITC Penrith	3	St George	0

SECOND GRADE

Macquarie District	3	Blacktown City	1
Northern NSW ITC	n/a	Gladesville Ravens	n/a
UWS Macarthur	0	Sutherland Shire	0
Marcon	0	Sydney Cosmos	0
NSW ITC Penrith	1	St George	1

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO — FIRST

Uni of NSW	1	Macarthur (1)	0
Moorebank (1)	0	Bathurst	1
Illawarra Lions	7	Sydney United	2
Sydney Cosmos	8	Macarthur (2)	0
Penrith Panthers	0	Liverpool Olympic	2
Moorebank (2)	1	St George Association	9

ROUND 4

Moorebank (1)	2	Liverpool Olympic	2
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NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 12

SATURDAY 27TH APRIL

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Adamstown Rosebud
Serbian Centre, 6.00pm

Sutherland Sharks v Canterbury Marrickville
Seymour Shaw Park, 6.00pm

Central Coast v Macarthur Rams
Plum Park, 6.00pm

Blacktown City Demons v Warringah Dolphins
Gabbie Stadium, 6.00pm

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL

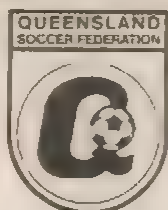
Bankstown City Lions v St. George Saints
Jensen Park, 3.00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Illawarra Lions
Lambert Park, 3.00pm

Rockdale City Suns v Parramatta Eagles
Rockdale Ilinden Sports Complex, 3.00pm

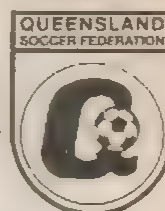
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QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION
Perry Park, Abbotsford Road,
Mayne, Queensland 4006
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Fax: (07) 3252-1137

XXXX League



Rochedale hit North Star for six

BY GLENN DAVIS

A hat trick from striker Kieran Cooper lifted Rochedale Rovers into third place in the Brisbane XXXX League in a one sided affair against league strugglers North Star at Underwood Park on Friday night.

The home side had little trouble in disposing of their youthful opponents 6-1 after struggling the previous week to secure a 2-2 draw against an under strength Taringa Rovers.

After eight matches North Star, who have been struggling financially in

'keeper Wayne Evans miskicked a back pass from skipper Gary Brattan which skewed off his boot past the upright.

The early fright failed to shake Rovers' confidence as they launched raid after raid particularly down the left flank of tireless worker John Weatherby.

Rochedale could easily have been 3 or 4 up midway through the first half but for missed opportunities and it took until 30 minutes before the deadlock was broken by nippy midfielder Craig Collins who deflected a free kick with a header.

Rochedale's newest signing this year Brenley Jeffery fired in a shot two minutes later which was parried by North Star 'keeper Paul Deranja for an easy tap in for the first of Cooper's hat trick.

Midfielder Darren Hillier, who has had previous national league experience with Brisbane United and Newcastle Breakers, missed an open goal to increase the homside's lead in the 35th minute blasting an easy attempt over the crossbar off a Sean Carey cutback inside the box.

Rochedale took a well deserved 3-0 lead just before the break when Collins' speed beat the North Star defence before



GRANGE THISTLE

firing in a cross to Cooper who scored from close range.

Even by half time it was apparent the enthusiastic North Star youngsters were well out of their depth but to their credit they battled hard with little reward.

It took Cooper just three minutes into the second half to complete his three goal haul, brilliantly turning the North Star defence inside the box to slot home Rochedales fourth.

North Star, who rarely held possession long enough, surprisingly continued their goal-a-game feat early after the break scoring against the run of play from Ben Dwyer.

However, that was their only joy on a nippy night as Weatherby fired in a pinpoint cross from the left to give Collins a double in the 75th minute.

Weatherby, who wreaked havoc with his speed down the left flank and dangerous crosses, was rewarded for a fine game

eight minutes from time dispatching Rochedales sixth goal after receiving a Cooper cutback from near the by-line.

In other weekend matches Brisbane City continued their unbeaten league run with a 1-nil win over Easts. City have now won all eight games played to date with a most impressive sixteen goals for and only three against. This gives City a five point lead over second placed

complete the scoring for the Lions. This was a good away win in the Northern Brisbane suburb for Brisbane Lions.

Nerang caused the upset of the round beating Taringa Rovers 2-0. Nerang who had previously conceded 19 goals and lost five of their previous matches could not have expected anything from the game. Rovers with the two Lees brothers in their line-up would have expected to at least go home with a draw.



Beenleigh.

Beenleigh maintained their second place with a 2-1 away win over Coalstars in Ipswich. However with only 11 goals they must be concerned about their ability to score.

Grange Thistle and Wynnum shared the points in a thrilling 3-all draw with Docherty chiming in with two penalties for Thistle.

Brisbane Lions were far too classy for a disappointing Pine Rivers winning 4-0. A. Brown put away a hattrick with W. Allan claiming a penalty to

ANZAC DAY

On Thursday at 7.00pm the top of the table clash takes place at Spencer Park. Brisbane City will be looking to extend their 100% record while Beenleigh will be keen to close the gap.

Rochedale have a tough game at Wynnum in the afternoon at 3.00pm.

North Star's young team have a tough ask when they entertain Nerang at



DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

Brisbane City	8	8	0	0	16	3	24
Beenleigh	8	6	1	1	11	5	19
Rochedale Rovers	8	5	2	1	28	7	17
Grange Thistle	8	5	2	1	16	11	17
Brisbane Lions	8	4	1	3	17	14	13
Wynnum District	8	3	3	2	14	10	12
Coalstars	8	3	0	5	14	13	9
Nerang	8	3	0	5	12	19	9
Taringa Rovers	8	2	2	4	11	12	8
Eastern Suburbs	8	1	2	5	8	16	5
Pine Rivers	8	1	0	7	13	27	3
North Star	8	0	1	7	9	32	1

RESULTS

Rochedale Rovers.....6	North Star.....1
K. Cooper (2).....	B. Dwyer (1)
C. Collins (2).....	
G. Brattan (1).....	
J. Weatherby (1).....	
Grange Thistle.....3	Wynnum.....3
T. Percival (1).....	G. Maltby (2)
D. Docherty (2 pen).....	P. Wilkins (1)
Pine Rivers.....0	Brisbane Lions.....4
	W. Allan (pen)
	A. Brown (3)
Nerang.....2	Taringa Rovers.....0
C. Watson (2).....	
Eastern Suburbs.....0	Brisbane City.....1
	L. Scriggins (1)
Coalstars.....1	Beenleigh.....2
R. Hili (1).....	A. McFarlane (1)
	J. Austin (1)

DIVISION 2

Rocklea United	8	6	2	0	26	10	20
Olympic United	7	4	3	0	17	10	15
Acacia Ridge	8	4	1	3	17	12	13
Albany Creek	8	4	1	3	20	22	13
Inala City United	8	4	0	4	16	20	12
Logan City Kings	8	3	1	4	15	13	10
St Albans	8	2	3	3	20	15	9
The Gap	8	3	0	5	12	19	9
Ipswich St Helens	8	3	0	5	8	17	9
Mount Gravatt	8	2	2	4	15	17	8
Capalaba	8	2	2	4	16	21	8
Willowburn	7	2	1	4	8	14	7

RESULTS

Ipswich St Helens.....0	Albany Creek.....3
Rocklea United.....3	Logan City Kings.....1
St Albans.....2	Inala City United.....3
Mount Gravatt.....2	The Gap.....1
Capalaba.....1	Acacia Ridge.....2

DIVISION 3

Slacks Creek	8	8	0	0	35	3	24
Newmarket	8	6	1	1	16	5	19
Uni of Qld	8	5	2	1	15	6	17
Goodna & Districts	8	4	2	2	15	8	14
Mitchelton	8	4	1	3	23	13	13
Souths United	8	3	2	3	14	10	11
Latrobe Athletic	8	3	2	3	17	21	11
Redlands United	8	3	1	4	20	17	10
Annerley Recreation	8	2	2	4	10	17	8
Western Suburbs	8	2	0	6	11	40	6
Darra United	8	0	3	5	13	24	3
Clairvaux	8	0	0	8	11	36	0

RESULTS

Slacks Creek.....12	Western Suburbs.....0
Uni of Qld.....2	Darra United.....0
Redlands United.....0	Newmarket.....6
Clairvaux.....1	Mitchelton.....5
Latrobe Athletic.....1	Souths United.....4
Goodna & Districts.....1	Annerley Recreation.....0

DIVISION 4

South Star	8	7	0	1	19	6	21
Moggill United	8	6	1	1	22	5	19
Bayside United	8	5	1	2	22	10	16
Southside Eagles	8	4	3	1	17	12	15
North Pine United	8	4	2	2	15	8	14
Samford	8	3	2	3	11	6	11
Brothers United	8	3	2	3	16	19	11
Redcliffe City	8	2	3	3	17	14	9
Ipswich City	8	2	2	4	8	23	8
Pine Hills	8	2	0	6	9	23	6
Browns Plains	8	1	1	6	7	20	4
Greenbank	8	0	1	7	15	32	1

RESULTS

Southside Eagles.....2	Browns Plains.....2
Greenbank.....3	Ipswich City.....4
Samford.....1	Moggill United.....1
South Star.....5	Brothers United.....2
Pine Hills.....0	North Pine United.....2
Bayside United.....2	Redcliffe City.....2

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

This Week's Matches...

Thursday, April 25

Brisbane City	v	Beenleigh	Spencer Park	7.00pm
Eastern Suburbs	v	Grange Thistle	Heath Park	3.00pm
Wynnum	v	Rochedale	Carmichael Park	3.00pm
North Star	v	Nerang	O'Callaghan Park	6.00pm
Taringa Rovers	v	Pine Rivers	Jack Speare Park	3.00pm
Brisbane Lions	v	Coalstars	Lions Stadium	7.00pm

Saturday, April 27

Pine Rivers	v	North Star	Wendy Allison Park	7.00pm
Rochedale	v	Eastern Suburbs	Underwood Park	7.00pm
Beenleigh	v	Brisbane Lions	Chris Green Park	7.00pm

Sunday, April 28

Coalstar	v	Taringa Rovers	Eric Evans Reserve	2.45pm
Nerang	v	Wynnum	Glennon Park	2.45pm
Grange Thistle	v	Brisbane City	Wallace J Dann Oval	2.45pm

**BRISBANE
STRIKERS**

**Troy
Cranney**



**Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY**



Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY



JUVENTUS

G I A N L U C A V I A L L I



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Suns. Georgies	10	8	2	0	20	7	26
Heidelberg Utd	10	7	3	0	31	9	24
Bent. Greens	10	7	1	2	23	9	22
Altona Magic	10	7	1	2	21	9	22
Thomast. Zebras	10	5	3	2	15	13	18
Bulleen Lions	10	4	3	3	13	10	15
Gr. Gully Cav.	10	3	4	3	14	14	13
Nt. Gee. Warriors	10	4	1	5	10	18	13
St Alb. Saints	10	3	2	5	13	17	11
Box Hill Inter	10	3	2	5	14	20	11
Pt Melb. Sharks	10	1	6	3	14	19	9
Spr City Vales	10	1	0	8	13	23	6
Fawkner Blues	10	0	3	7	7	21	3
Albion Redsox	10	0	1	9	4	23	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bent. Greens	10	8	0	2	29	15	24
Pt. Melb. Sharks	10	7	1	2	20	8	22
Bulleen Lions	9	7	0	2	24	10	21
Thomast. Zebras	9	5	1	3	25	13	16
Albion Redsox	9	5	1	3	19	21	16
Heidelberg Utd	10	5	0	5	27	24	15
Fawkner Blues	10	4	2	4	13	23	14
Box Hill Inter	10	3	3	4	14	16	12
Suns. Georgies	10	3	3	4	17	22	12
Spr. City Vales	10	3	2	5	27	23	11
Gr. Gully Cav.	10	3	2	5	19	17	11
Altona Magic	9	3	1	5	19	25	10
St Alb. Saints	10	1	4	5	6	13	7
Nt. Gee. Warr	10	1	0	9	9	38	3

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
West Suburbs	4	4	0	0	6	1	12
Sp. White Eagles	4	3	1	0	11	1	10
Preston Lions	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Kingston City	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Richmond	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Werribee City	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
C'don City Dons	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Northcote City	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Westgate	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Broadmeadows	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Don'ter Rovers	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Moorabbin City	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Lalor Utd	4	1	0	3	6	8	3
Glen Eira City	4	0	1	3	1	11	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Richmond	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Don'ter Rovers	4	3	0	1	14	3	9
Northcote City	4	3	0	1	8	4	9
Moorabbin City	3	2	1	0	9	4	7
Werribee City	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Croydon City	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Lalor United	3	2	0	1	9	5	6
Preston Lions	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
West. Suburbs	3	1	1	1	9	7	4
Kingston City	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Sp. White Eagles	4	1	0	3	11	12	3
Westgate	4	1	0	3	4	14	3
Broadmeadows	3	0	0	3	2	9	0
Glen Eira City	4	0	0	4	6	20	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sth Dandenong	4	4	0	0	14	3	12
Westvale	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
Altona East	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Ess. Brun. Royals	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Altona City	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
East Richmond	3	2	0	1	7	1	6
Regent Bulla	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
Waverley City	4	1	1	2	4	9	4
Oakleigh	4	1	1	2	2	8	4
Bell Park	3	1	0	2	8	7	3
Mooroolbark	4	1	0	3	2	5	3

Knox City	4	1	0	3	2	10	3
Nunawading City	4	1	0	3	1	10	3
Frankston Pines	4	0	2	2	1	4	2

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona City	4	4	0	0	23	6	12
Mooroolbark	4	3	1	0	10	4	10
Frank. Pines	4	3	1	0	7	1	10
Oakleigh	4	3	0	1	11	6	9
East Richmond	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
Waverley City	4	2	0	2	8	7	6
Westvale	4	2	0	2	9	13	6
South Dandenong	4	1	1	2	8	8	4
Altona East	4	1	1	2	8	11	4
Ess. Brun. Royals	4	1	0	3	6	8	3
Nunawading City	4	1	0	3	3	11	3
Regent Bulla	4	1	0	3	7	19	3
Bell Park	3	0	1	2	5	9	1
Knox City	4	0	0	4	5	12	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston	4	4	0	0	19	5	12
Fitzroy City	4	3	1	0	14	6	10
Cranbourne	4	3	0	1	13	4	9
Sth. Sprvale	4	3	0	1	14	7	9
Sth. Werribee	4	2	1	1	19	5	7
Ringwood City	4	2	1	1	13	3	7
Dia. Valley Utd	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Keilor Eagles	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Melbourne City	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
Frankston	4	1	0	3	8	10	3
Pascoe Vale	4	1	0	3	6	13	3
Banyule City	4	0	1	3	3	14	1
Sth Caulfield	4	0	3	1	4	9	0
Chelsea	4	0	0	4	5	21	0
Clifton Hill	4	0	0	4	1	25	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	4	3	1	0	14	5	10
Yarraville	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
Sunbury Utd	4	3	1	0	12	4	10
Monbulk	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Stonnington	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Nth Coburg Utd	4	2	1	1	9	9	7
Sun. Heights	4	2	0	2	8	7	6
Geelong	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Corio	4	1	2	1	7	9	5
Seaford Utd	4	1	0	3	4	9	3
Lalor	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
Williamstown	4	0	2	2	4	7	2
Moreland City	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
Sanham City	4	0	1	3	5	17	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	4	4	0	0	22	3	12
Yarraville	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
Sunbury Utd	4	3	1	0	12	4	10
Monbulk	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Stonnington	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Nth Coburg Utd	4	2	1	1	9	9	7
Sun. Heights	4	2	0	2	8	7	6
Geelong	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Corio	4	1	2	1	7	9	5
Seaford Utd	4	1	0	3	4	9	3
Lalor	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
Williamstown	4	0	2	2	4	7	2
Moreland City	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
Sanham City	4	0	1	3	5	17	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	4	4	0	0	22	3	12
Sunbury Utd	4	3	1	0	7	1	10
S'shine Heights	4	3	0	1	12	2	9
Moreland City	4	3	0	1	9	5	9
Lalor	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Stonnington	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
Nth Coburg Utd	4	2	0	2	6	10	6

Yarraville	4	1	2	1	6	5	5
Geelong	4	1	2	1	8	15	5
Corio	4	1	0	3	3	6	3
Monbulk	4	0	2	2	7	9	2
Seaford Utd	4	0	2	2	7	12	2
Williamstown	4	0	1	3	5	10	1
Sandringham	4	0	0	4	1	16	0

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melton	4	4	0	0	8	1	12
Old Scotch/Hawt	4	3	1	0	11	4	10
Knox Park	4	3	0	1	15	7	9
Geel. Rangers	4	3	0	1	12	5	9
Keysborough	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Sth Wantima	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Mornington	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Ballarat	4	2	0	2	5	10	6
Sp'vale Condors	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Glenroy	4	0	2	2	2	7	2
Nth Sunshine	4	0	1	3	5	9	1
Doveton	4	0	1	3	5	11	1
Mitcham Utd	4	0	0	4	3	12	0
Heidelberg City	4	0	0	4	3	13	0

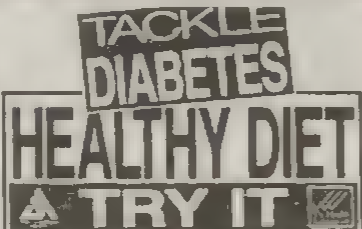
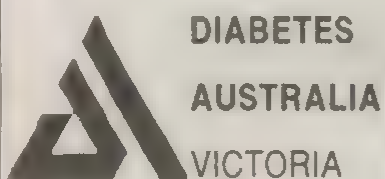
RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	4	4	0	0	14	6	12
Glenroy	4	3	1	0	9	5	10
Geelong Rangers	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Ballarat	4	3	0	1	9	8	9
Mornington	4	2	2	0	7	2	8
Keysborough	4	2	0	2	11	10	6
Sp'vale Condors	4	2	1	1	8	3	4
Melton	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
Heidelberg City	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Nth Sunshine	4	1	0	3	3	5	3
Doveton	4	1	0	3	7	10	3
Old Scotch/Hawt	4	1	0	3	5	9	3
Mitcham Utd	4	0	1	3	5	12	1
Sth Wantima	4	0	1	3	3	10	1

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Braeside Utd	4	3	0	1	10	3	9
Endeavour Utd	4	2	1	1	15	5	7
Lyndale United	4	2	1	1	11	7	7
Hoppers Cross	4	2	1	1	10	10	7
Dandenong	4	2	1	1	6	7	7
Brandon Park	4	2	0	2	7	5	6
Croxton	3	2	0	1	8	9	6
Sth Yarra	4	2	0	2	14	18	6
Meadow Park	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Brunswick City	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Berwick City	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Hampton Pk Utd	4	0	3	1	4	6	3
Nth Glenroy	4	0	3	1	3	5	3
East Nun. Eagles	3	0	1	2	1	6	1



TACKLE DIABETES



STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL ROUND 5

Werribee City	v	Croydon City
Br'meadows City	v	Lalor Utd
Glen Eira City	v	Kingston City
Westgate	v	Western Suburbs
Richmond	v	Northcote City
Preston Lions	v	Doncaster Rovers
S'vale Wht Eagles	v	Moorabbin City

SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL ROUND 8

Northcote City	v	Preston Lions
Moorabbin City	v	Werribee City

SUNDAY, 28TH APRIL

Doncaster Rovers	v	S'vale Wht Eagles
Western Suburbs	v	Richmond
Kingston City	v	Westgate
Lalor Utd	v	Glen Eira City
Croydon City	v	Br'meadows City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL 5

Nunawading City	v	Frankston Pines
Bell Park	v	Ess Bruns. Royals
Altona East	v	East Richmond
Knox City	v	Oakleigh
Regent-Bulla	v	Sth Dandenong
Westvale	v	Altona City
Mooroolbark	v	Waverley City

SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL ROUND 4

Altona City	v	Mooroolbark
Sth Dandenong	v	Westvale
Oakleigh	v	Regent-Bulla
Waverley City	v	Nunawading City
East Richmond	v	Knox City
Ess. Bruns. Royals	v	Altona East
Frankston Pines	v	Bell Park

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL ROUND 5

Keilor Eagles	v	Melbourne City
Chelsea	v	Sth Caulfield
Pascoe Vale	v	Diamond Valley Utd
Clifton Hill	v	Frankston
Banyule City	v	Cranbourne
Sth Springvale	v	Sth Werribee
Ringwood City	v	Fitzroy City

SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL ROUND 6

Sth Werribee	v	Ringwood City
Cranbourne	v	Sth Springvale
Frankston	v	Bayule City
Fitzroy City	v	Keilor Eagles
Diamond Valley Utd	v	Clifton Hill
Sth Caulfield	v	Pascoe Vale
Melbourne City	v	Chelsea

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL ROUND 5

Lalor	v	Yarraville
Corio	v	Sandringham City
Langwarrin	v	Sunbury Utd
Monbulk	v	Williamstown
Stonnington City	v	Geelong
Moreland City	v	Nth Coburg Utd
Seaford Utd	v	Sunshine Heights

SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL ROUND 4

Nth Coburg Utd	v	Seaford Utd
Geelong	v	Moreland City
Williamstown	v	Stonnington City
Sunshine Heights	v	Lalor
Sunbury Utd	v	Monbulk
Sandringham City	v	Langwarrin
Yarraville	v	Corio

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL ROUND 5

Keysborough	v	Knox City
Nth Sunshine	v	Ballarat
Glenroy	v	Doveton
Heidelberg City	v	Old Scotch/Hawt
Sth Wantirna	v	Geelong Rangers
Mornington	v	Melton
Mitcham Utd	v	S'vale Condors

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL ROUND 5

East Nun. Eagles	v	Braeside Utd
Brunswick City	v	Dandenong
Hampton Park Utd	v	Brandon Park
South Yarra	v	Nth Glenroy
Lyndale Utd	v	Croxton
Berwick City	v	Endeavour Utd
Meadow park	v	Hoppers Crossi ng

SPRINGVALE 1

THOMASTOWN 2

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

A goal two minutes from time from substitute Davide Iacovitti earned Thomastown Zebras an undeserved win at Ross Reserve on Friday night.

Springvale, under second game coach John Colangeli, outplayed the Zebras for much of the match, only wasteful finishing stopped the Vales from gaining three precious points.

Vince De La Plaza was guilty of spurning a great chance early on when he missed the target from close range.

De La Plaza came close after he ran onto Vargas' quick free kick but slammed his shot against the bar.

The game seemed to be headed for a draw until Iacovitti pounced on a rebound from Ransford Banini's cross-shot.

Vales: Christov, Lettieri, Colomino, De La Plaza, Spina, D.Grella, Lancaster, Rosa, A.Vargas, P. Grella, R.Vargas. Zebras: Gonzalez, Banini, Angelovski, Karic, Emmanuele, Tricarico, Lazarevski (Iacovitti), Mazzini, Lingurovski (Bichler), Boschini (Della Rocca), Ngata. Votes: 3-A. Vargas (Spr), 2-Lettieri (Spr), 1-Banini (Thom). Referee: Jim Markovski.

ALBION 1

ST. ALBANS 3

BY ZORAN MILENKOVSKI

Albion Redsox looking down the barrel of first division soccer next season were defeated by a ten man St. Albans side on Sunday at Selwyn Park.

It was not all one way traffic for St. Albans, as both teams were desperate for points. In the 16th minute, striker Zvonko Usljebka received a pass from Ivan Jolic to fire home a 25 metre volley.

The equalising goal arrived in the 22nd minute when a John Grimuad cross found Martin Collins in the box who fired home from close range.

St. Albans' backs were

against the wall when Richard Milanovic was sent off for a hard tackle on Collins in the 37th minute. The bubble burst for Albion in 82nd minute when Ivan Jolic crossed the ball to substitute Krno Razov who volleyed the ball home. In the 87th minute Jolic finished off the scoring.

Redsox: Brian, Grimuad, Osman, Lucchesi, Wilson, Donnelly, Collins, Geri, Kotzamalichis (Hulusi), Carter (Patsaman), Mustafa (Gurpinar).

Saints: Vunderi, Rados, Markovac, Gagula, Movric, Granovic, Magdic, (Razov), M. Colina, Jolic, Usljebka (Pelja), Milanovic (sent off). Referee: Vince Celestino. Votes: 3-Jolic (Saints); 2-Grimuad (Redsox); 1-Vunderi (Saints).

FAWKNER 0

GREEN BULLY 0

BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

The winless Fawkn Blues gained just their third point of the season on Sunday, in a dull, scoreless draw with Green Gully Cavaliers.

A dour, scrappy affair, the first half was conspicuous for its lack of chances, apart from a 13 minute shot by Gully's Cameron Brown, that was just wide.

The game's major drama came in the 28th minute when Fawkn's Michael Branov was stretched off with what appeared to be a serious ankle injury.

The second - half was identical to the first, with Blues player, Dean Sciccuna, shooting wide in the only clear cut chance of an otherwise uninspiring second stanza.

Blues: Malnacca, Vassiliadis, Schipano, Branov (Vukadin), Recchia, Tramontana, Sciccuna, Ferla, Tortevski (Gymnopoulos) Kuzman, Basias (Mihocic).

Cavaliers: Vella, Spiteri, Cimino, Lynch, Chetcuti, Stojcevski (Azzopardi), Suric, Genovesi (Maglovski), Brown, Scoble, Crodden.

Votes: 3-Brown (Cavaliers); 2-Schipano (Blues); 1-Scoble (Cavaliers). Referee: Nestor Zachriadis.

ALTONA 1

SUNSHINE 1

BY ROD BOWELS

Sunshine Georgies had to come from behind to snatch a 1-1 draw against the Magic and maintain their unbeaten run at Paisely Park on Sunday.

Altona got off to a dream start when Nick Georgeopoulous chested the ball down to Sash Bevinovski who fired home from close range in the second minute.

The Georgies were on level terms in the 36th minute when Spencer Field found the back of the net.

Sunshine coach Willie Vassallo was happy with the result, mentioning that the game could have gone either way.

Magic: McGrath, Bogoevski, Tasevski, Runje, Markovski, Micevski, Rusmir, Emsovski, Velkovski (Petrov), Bevinovski, Georgopoulos. Georgies: Wardle, De Bono, Kanesoulis, Cassar, Dragicevic, Field, Aretis, Nilo, Daglaras, Tsirtakis (Markovski), De La Plaza (McMinnnee). Votes: 3-Daglaras (Georgies); 2-Rusmir (Magic); 1-Bevinovski (Magic).

HEIDELBERG 3

BOX HILL 3

BY NICHOLAS TZAFERIS

A greater degree of tenacity combined with three goals in the last 20 minutes saw Box Hill surprisingly claim a point against league hot shots Heidelberg United.

Box Hill came from 2-0 and 3-2 down to register the point and displayed rare traits of determination.

United had raced to a two goal lead after goals from Bobby Despotovski and Nemanja Obradovic before the sending off of Glenn Clarke gave the game new life. Clarke was dismissed for pulling down a surging Robert Marcen and the resultant penalty was scored by Peter Petrakos.

Michael Tyrikos, Uniteds second choice 'keeper who had just come on the pitch, was beaten again in the 78th minute by a classy Steve Guscis goal.

It took Heidelberg less than two minutes to regain the lead when midfielder George Karkaletsis beat Sean Keogh after good lead up work by Despotovski.

Inter had ten minutes left to produce something special and when Jim Tsakiris smashed the upright from long range it seemed the game would slip away. But substitute Adam Inglese snared a point for Inter at the death with a distant shot that deceived Tyrikos.

United: Clarke (sent off),

PREMIER LEAGUE

Springvale City Vales 1 (A.Vargas) - Thomastown Zebras 2 (Tricarico, Iacovitti)
Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Tsaltas) - Bentleigh Greens 1 (Michell)
North Geelong Warriors 1 (Trupkovic) - Bulleen Lions 0
Albion Redsox 1 (Collins) - St Albans Saints 3 (Usljebka, Jolic, Razov)
Heidelberg United 3 (Despotovski, Obradovic, Karkaletsis) - Box Hill Inter 3 (Petrakos, Guscis, Inglese)
Fawkn Blues 0 - Green Gully Cavaliers 0
Altona Magic 1 (Bevinovski) - Sunshine Georgies 1 (Field)

Iosifidis (Tsoumerkias), Karapatsos, Georgiadis, Fak, Koutos, Karkaletsis, Vlahos, Kratzoglou (Tyrikos), Despotovski, Obradovic.

Inter: Keogh, Pansino, Tartaglia, Castro, Dal Ben, Marcen, Lennon (Chirico), Guscis, Guglielmi (A. Inglese), Tsakiris, Petrakos (Sette). Votes: 3-Tsakiris (Inter); 2-Guscis (Inter); 1-Marcen (Inter). Referee: Andrew Stacey

PORT MELBOURNE 1

BENTLEIGH 1

BY JOHN RIGAS

The big news to come out of the Port Melbourne camp was the coaching appointment of former South Melbourne boss Frank Arok, Arok has been appointed coach until the end of the season replacing Takis Svigos.

Svigos coached Port for the last time against the Bentleigh Greens on Sunday which ended up in a 1-1 draw.

In an uninspiring first-half their was only one real clear cut opportunity which fell to John Dimitrelos who should have given the Sharks the lead from close range.

Port Melbourne struck first blood when Nick Tsaltas rounded goalkeeper Peter Laumets, Tsaltas' initial strike was saved on the goaline, his second attempt found the net in the 55th minute.

Bentleigh equalised in the 74th minute when zoran Todorovski crossed the ball to Harry Michiel who powered hit shot into the top corner.

Sharks: Papas, Daglis, Dimitrelos (Lantinopoulos), Retre (Efsthathiou), Duric (Komilionis), Svigos, Tsaltas, Bell, Palamaras, Cotis, Karagianis.

Greens: Laumets, Drakos (Constantinou), Micheil, Theohrous, Alagiozidis, Lutton,

Todorovski, Charalambous (Kotsovolos), Kalimeris, Crivari, Kourk-outzelos (Bakker).

Votes: 3-Kalimeris (Greens); 2-Bell (Sharks); 1-Alagiozidis (Greens). Referee: Jurgen Annuss

N. GEELONG 1

BULLEEN 0

BY JOHN DIDULICA

Mijo Trupkovic's prowess at the dead - ball guided the North Geelong Warriors to their most important win of the campaign with a 1-0 win over Bulleen Lions.

After a marauding John Didulica run was crudely halted near the edge of the area, Trupkovic stepped - up to bend the ball past bewildered goalkeeper Jeff Olver.

Bulleen's best chance fell to Robert Stojcevski, whose 25 metre piledriver forced an acrobatic save from Joey Didulica.

The Lions continued to press in search of the equaliser, each player involved in an attack at some stage.

The main feature of the performance and that which ultimately won the game for the Warriors was the return of desire and focus which has been missing form many weeks.

Warriors: Joey Didulica, Bot (Kules), Cosic, Medved, McAuliffe, O'Sullivan (Rajher, Skoko, Trupkovic, Dimovski (Fitzpatrick), John Didulica, Deak.

Lions: Olver, Valentic, Stojcevski, Krajacic (Collina), Slifkas, McAlleer, Grbac, Di Iorio, Everetts, Uliana (Giaccherini), Liparotti.

Votes: 3-Cosic (Warriors); 2-Joey Didulica (Warriors); 1-Deak (Warriors). Referee: Cain Naumcevski

PREMIER LEAGUE



RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887

SUNDAY

MATCH RESULTS

SERVICE

◆ Premier League

◆ State League Div. 1

◆ Provisional

League Divisions 4&5

(Updated by 6.30pm

each Sunday evening)

0055 38878

SATURDAY

MATCH RESULTS

SERVICE

◆ Premier League

◆ State League

Divisions

1 to 3

(Updated by 6.30pm

each Saturday evening)

0055 38898

SATURDAY

MATCH RESULTS

SERVICE

◆ State League

Division 4

◆ Provisional

League Divisions 1-3

(Updated by 6.30pm

each Saturday evening)

(PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 0055 38878)



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



THE WEST MOVING AHEAD

Women's soccer in Western Australia is moving ahead in its elite program, junior development, and administration. Isolated by distance, the locals are determined not to fall behind in football development.

The High Performance Centre program, a part-time version of the ITC program, is a squad of 22 of the State's best 15-20 year-olds. "It's a part-time program with a full-time commitment from the players," said Kerry Harris, WAWSA Executive Officer.

The squad trains three times a week, and is about to start competition twice a week, but this year will be moving away from the regular women's competition. Friday nights they will be part of a four team elite women's league, and Sundays will see them taking on the boys.

The group of 22 includes six 'part-time' players who for various reasons are unable to make a full commitment to the hours required by the program. These players still need to attend at least 50% of sessions, and are released back to their clubs.

Two such players are Rachel Mander and Tal Karp, both making their mark in male soccer circles. Mander plays State League U/18s, with Karp mixing it with the Premier League Boys.

The 'Quit' HPC is funded by Healthways, with monies also coming from AWSA and the State association. In July 1997, they are due to become part of the WA Institute of Sport

program.

Currently advertising for a new Head coach following a recent resignation, WAWSA are also introducing a new position of Feeder Squad Coach with separate monetary support from Healthways.

The Feeder Squad will consist of younger players identified as future elite, the program running in parallel with the HPC but training just once a week.

Australian women's coach Tom Sermanni last week spent five days in Perth, working closely with the HPC. Other activities included a coaching course for all women's soccer coaches, a coaching lecture, and a skills clinic for new young players.

Sermanni also watched the all-day Cup competition where every women's team was playing at the one venue, and was also involved in interviews for the new HPC coach.

On the management front, WAWSA has made the great leap forward of employing a full-time Executive officer. Kerry Harris, also an AWSA Board Member, was appointed in January with the office now located near the men's association at Perry Lakes Stadium, a move which has really increased the profile of the women's game.

The forward thinking of the WA hierarchy will no doubt reap great benefits for the future of soccer both in the West and on a national scale.

Camp to take new direction

The next Australian training camp to be held at the AIS, Canberra from May 2-5 will take on a new direction from previous ones.

Moving away from the conventional coaching sessions normally conducted, Tom Sermanni will introduce the new concept of matches against a quality men's Over/35 team, consisting of top former players including Canberra Cosmos coach Mick Lyons and former Socceroo Steve O'Connor.

"The idea should produce a better footballing contest as opposed to when we have played youth males which normally becomes a physical contest and difficult to compete," explained Sermanni.

"The older males will have slowed down a touch but know how to play the game. It will still be hard physically for our team, but the men's footballing knowledge should give us the balance of what we're looking for."

The switch to matchplay will give a new emphasis to camp proceedings, concentrating more on tactics and team organisation.

"We need to take the next step of refining team aspects of what we're doing out on the field."

The camp will also be the first for the year where players will undergo physical

testing.

On the first day, a meeting of ITC Coaches, sports science and sports medicine personnel will take place to discuss the program as a whole and future directions.



Tracey Wheeler: One of the goalkeepers in Canberra.

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING CAMP AIS Canberra, May 2-5, 1996

Louisa	BISBY	VIC
Sharon	BLACK	SA
Katrina	BOYD	NSW
Lisa	CASAGRANDE	NNSW
Lizzy	CLAYDON	WA
Sarah	COOPER	NT
Tanya	CORBETT	QLD
Trudy	DIAMOND	NNSW
Cindy	DOYLE	ACT
Sarah	FITZGERALD	TAS
Sonia	GEGENHUBER	QLD
Sunni	HUGHES	NNSW
Belinda	KITCHING	QLD
Caroline	LYNCH	TAS
Tracie	McGOVERN	NNSW
Louise	McMURTRIE	QLD
Kristy	MOORE	SA
Joanne	PETERS	NSW
Kim	REVELL	QLD
Bridgette	STARR	NNSW
Kristyn	SWAFFER	SA
Tammie	THORNTON	QLD
Sacha	WAINWRIGHT	ACT
Michelle	WATSON	NSW
Tracey	WHEELER	WA
Shelley	YUMAN	NNSW
Stand-By Players		
Belinda	BARTER	NSW
Elizabeth	COTTON	NSW
Kelly	GOLEBIOWSKI	NSW
Rachel	MANDER	WA
Coaches —		
Tom	SERMANNI	National
Coach		
Jeff	OLVER	Assistant
Leigh	WARDELL	Scholarship
Coach		
Wendy	CARTER	Guest

Aussies in Coffs Harbour

Brisbane and NSW based Australian squad members made the trip to Coffs Harbour on the NSW north coast for a match against the region's top players last Saturday.

The Coffs Harbour Select consisted of 16-19 year-olds chosen from the region's representative teams as well as four U/16 boys recently selected for the NSW Academy.

The locals provided good opposition in the match which saw the Aussies win 3-0.

Tom Sermanni was also involved in a coaching clinic, and was impressed by the growth of women's soccer in the area over the past two years.

Aussies to tour the Americas

The Australian team is set to embark on a tour of Brazil and the USA in late May and June.

Such quality opposition will prove a tough test for the Aussies, with both USA and Brazil in their final preparations for the July Atlanta Olympic Games.

"Obviously it is very pleasing that the US still consider us a quality team to be involved in their final stages of Olympic preparation," said AWSA chief Peter Hugg.

The Brazil tournament is scheduled for May 26 — June 2, with two internationals in the USA on June 6-8. An 18-member team will be selected after the May training camp.

ANZAC Day Clash

Rival ITCs NSW and NNSW will play each other this Thursday in an Anzac Day of football between the two neighbouring States in Newcastle.

The more experienced NNSW squad has the edge with two wins notched up last month, a fact the ever improving NSW side will be keen to avenge.

The match kicks off at 1pm at Breakers Stadium, Sandgate Rd, Birmingham Gardens. The men will follow at 3pm with the NSW Super League Select taking on NNSW Select.

Hockey a hit with soccer

While in Perth last week, Tom Sermanni took the opportunity to meet with the top Australian women's hockey officials. Western Australia, traditionally Australia's hockey capital, is the site of the AIS Hockey Unit where the World Champion and former Olympic Gold Medallist women's hockey team is currently in full-

time training for six months in preparation for the Olympic Games.

Eager to tap into the secrets of hockey's international success, Sermanni held discussions with the legendary Ric Charlesworth, former top player and now Australia's Coach, as well as other officials.

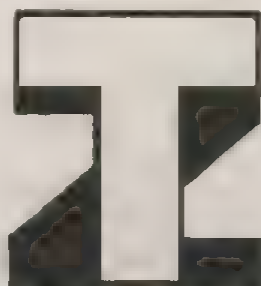
"It was refreshing and

very beneficial," said Sermanni. "I can see what Ric is aiming for, and it's similar to the direction I want to take — also the management of the team and how to run the program."

There are some aspects we've started to put into action, but obviously they're a step ahead of us, being World Champions."

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TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	31	19	10	2	50	19	67
Juventus	31	18	6	7	53	31	60
Fiorentina	31	16	8	7	50	34	56
Parma	31	14	10	7	42	29	52
Roma	31	14	9	8	44	31	51
Lazio	31	14	8	9	60	37	50
Inter	31	14	8	9	48	29	50
Sampdoria	31	13	9	9	54	44	48
Vicenza	31	13	8	10	33	33	47
Udinese	31	11	7	13	38	43	40
Cagliari	31	10	7	14	31	45	37
Atalanta	31	10	6	15	34	46	36
Napoli	31	8	11	12	25	39	35
Piacenza	31	8	9	14	27	47	33
Bari	31	7	7	17	43	64	28
Cremonese	31	5	11	15	35	48	26
Torino	31	5	11	15	27	43	26
Padova	31	6	3	22	39	71	21

SERIE A

Cagliari.....2	Vicenza.....0
Cremonese.....0	Piacenza.....0
Fiorentina.....1	Atalanta.....0
Inter.....1	Juventus.....2
Padova.....2	Udinese.....3
Parma.....3	Bari.....1
Roma.....4	Napoli.....1
Sampdoria.....3	Lazio.....3
Torino.....1	Milan.....1

SERIE B

Avellino.....2	Cesena.....1
Bologna.....0	Reggiana.....0
Brescia.....4	Ancona.....0
Chievo V.....2	Perugia.....4
Cosenza.....2	F. Andria.....1
Foggia.....2	Verona.....1
Palermo.....4	Genoa.....0
Pescara.....1	Pistoiese.....2
Salernitana.....1	Lucchese.....1
Venezia.....1	Reggina.....0

SERIE B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Verona	31	14	10	7	41	27	52
Perugia	31	13	10	8	42	33	49
Salernitana	31	12	12	7	36	22	48
Reggiana	31	12	11	8	29	24	47
Bologna	31	10	16	5	28	18	46
Lucchese	31	11	13	7	36	33	46
Cosenza	31	10	13	8	37	35	43
Cesena	31	11	9	11	39	36	42
Palermo	31	9	15	7	30	30	42
Venezia	31	10	12	9	28	30	42
Pescara	31	11	9	11	35	38	42
Chievo V.	31	7	17	7	31	28	38
Genoa	31	10	8	13	43	45	38
F. Andria	31	8	13	10	36	34	37
Brescia	31	10	7	14	37	39	37
Avellino	31	10	7	14	31	41	37
Ancona	31	10	6	15	37	43	36
Foggia	31	9	8	14	22	37	35
Reggina	31	7	12	12	28	42	33
Pistoiese	31	7	10	14	28	39	31

AC Milan must wait a little longer



Giuseppe Signori: Scored twice for Lazio in thrilling three all draw with Sampdoria.

European Cup finalist Juventus kept Italian league leader AC Milan waiting at least another week for its fourth title in five years by winning 2-1 at Inter last weekend.

Despite struggling to a 1-1 draw at lowly Torino, Milan is still seven points clear of Juve with three matches to play and remain odds on favourites to win the title.

With midweek European Cup hero Gianluca Vialli left on the bench, Attilio Lombardo gave Juventus the perfect start by turning home Michele Padovano's cross in the fourth minute.

Straight after the break Antonio Conte put his side two up with a first-time shot from 20 metres before a late goal from

Maurizio Ganz left the visitors to survive an anxious finale.

The result made it a frustrating day for Milan which had expected to clinch the title at struggling Torino. Instead, goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi saved well in the last minute to save it from a shock defeat.

Earlier, Italian international Paolo Maldini profited from a goalmouth scramble to edge Milan in front, only for Paolo Cristallini to level the scores with a 78th minute penalty.

Third-placed Fiorentina made light of the absence on international duty of Argentine Gabriel Batistuta to defeat Atalanta 1-0 with a goal from his replacement Giacomo Banchelli.

Parma stayed fourth

after virtually condemning Bari to Serie B with a 3-1 home win while Marco Delvecchio's hat-trick in Roma's 4-1 thrashing of Napoli lifted his side into fifth place.

Enrico Chiesa's 88th minute penalty gave Sampdoria a thrilling 3-3 draw at home to Lazio.

Lazio led 2-1 at halftime thanks to Casiraghi and Signori. Balleri netted for Sampdoria. Mancini evened the scores before Signori notched his second. It was left to the late penalty for the eventual outcome.

Padova's two-year spell in Serie A came to a disappointing end with a 3-2 defeat by Udinese - the home side's 10th successive loss.

Torino for sale

Relegation-threatened Italian Serie A Torino, the poor cousin to powerful city rival Juventus, went on sale last week.

The club said president Gian Marco Calleri, the main shareholder, and minority holders Bruno Bonacina and Giovanni Cottino had agreed to sell their stakes.

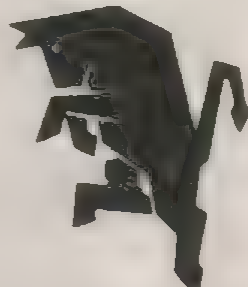
Calleri, who has received frequent abuse from Torino supporters recently said he had asked his financial advisers to evaluate any eventual bids for the club which has already changed coach three times this season.

Torino's heyday was immediately after World War Two. They won the league title from 1945 to 1949, when the entire squad was killed in an air crash outside the city.

The club last won the league in 1976 and is currently one place above bottom club Padova.

Former Lazio chairman Calleri rescued Torino in 1994 at a time when it looked as if the club, which currently has French international defender Jocelyn Angloma and Ghanaian striker Abedi Pele on its books, was heading for bankruptcy.

The club, caught up in judicial investigations at the time, had an estimated debt of \$A38.3 million.



Sacchi signed till 1998

Italy's coach Arrigo Sacchi (below) has signed a new contract to take the national team to the 1998 World Cup finals in France, assuming it performs well under his guidance at this summer's European Championship.

Italian soccer federation press chief Antonello Valentini said last week that Sacchi had extended his contract to December 1998

he is currently paid.

Sacchi, former coach of AC Milan, took over as national coach in 1990 and led Italy to the final of the 1994 World Cup in Los Angeles where they lost to Brazil.

Federation sources said there was no clause in the contract for Sacchi, who could undoubtedly have earned more at club level in Italy, to leave if the national team performed badly in the European Championship in England in June.

"The Italian fans are the clause," one source said. "They'll give him a kick in the backside if the team does badly."

The federation also announced that Italy would play a friendly against a team yet to be named on May 29 in Italy and another against Hungary on June 1 in Budapest.

Italy's 22-man squad for the European Championship is expected to be announced on May 13, the day after the league season ends, with the players gathering on May 18.



and would be paid \$A1.2 million a year, the amount

Winter moves to Inter



Aaron Winter: Transferring from Lazio to Inter.

Dutch international midfielder Aaron Winter confirmed he was leaving Lazio after signing a three-year deal with fellow Serie A side Inter Milan.

Winter, 29, signed a contract worth \$A6.39 million, but Lazio will receive nothing as he is out of contract.

"It's the last major contract of my career and it is only right that I look after myself," said Winter, who played for Holland in the last two World Cups.

"I asked Lazio for another three-year contract but the club would not accept it," he added.

"I had several offers from Italian sides but Inter's seemed to be the most serious proposition," Winter told reporters, explaining the length of the deal was "more important than the financial aspect."

Former Ajax star Winter scored 22 goals in 121 appearances for Lazio, one of only eight Italian League players to be ever present in the 1993-94 season, after signing in 1992.

He won the UEFA Cup in 1992 while still with Ajax.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

22	Protti (Bari), Signori (Lazio)
19	Chiesa (Samp)
18	Batistuta (Fiorentina)
	Branca (Inter)
15	Bierhoff (Udinese)
14	Oliveira (Cagliari)
	Casiraghi (Lazio)
13	Caccia (Piacenza)
12	Ravanelli (Juventus)
	Otero (Vicenza)
	Ganz (Inter)

SEMI FINALS - SECOND LEG

In Athens: Panathinaikos (Greece) 0 Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 3 (0-1)
 Scorers: Jari Litmanen (4, 77), Nordin Wooter (86)
 Attendance: 77,000
 Ajax wins 3-1 on aggregate and advances to final.

In France: Nantes (France) 3 Juventus (Italy) 2 (1-1)
 Scorers:
 Nantes — Eric Decroix (44), Japhet N'Doram (69), Franck Renou (82)
 Juventus — Gianluca Vialli (17), Paulo Sousa (50)
 Attendance: 35,000
 Juventus win 4-3 on aggregate and advance to the final.

Final on May 22 (Thursday morning, live SBS coverage begins at 5am Sydney time) Olympic Stadium, Rome
Ajax Amsterdam v Juventus (Turin)

Ruthless Ajax power through

Holders Ajax ruthlessly shrugged off a shock first leg deficit to reach the European Cup final, dashing the hopes of Greek champions Panathinaikos with a 3-0 win, in Athens last Wednesday.

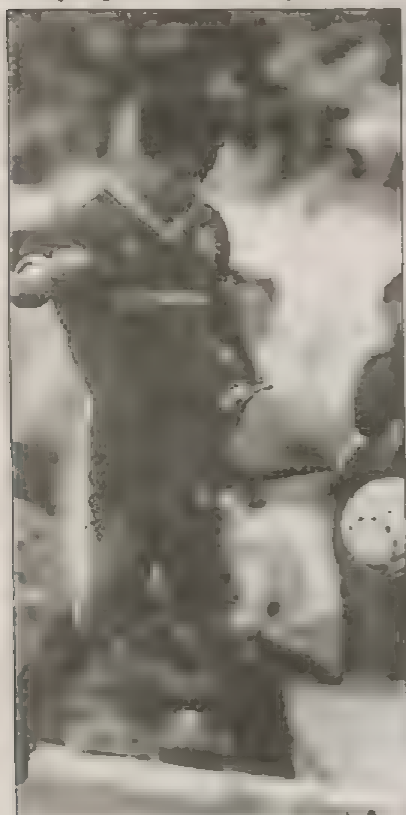
Finnish striker Jari Litmanen set the Dutch on their way by netting the opener after just four minutes, levelling the tie at 1-1 after the Greeks had grabbed a shock 1-0 win in the first leg a fortnight ago in Amsterdam.

Louis van Gaal's men never gave their opponents a whiff of a chance of completing the job as they patrolled their own half with iron resolution, then broke swiftly down the flanks through Nwankwo Kanu and fellow Nigerian Finidi George.

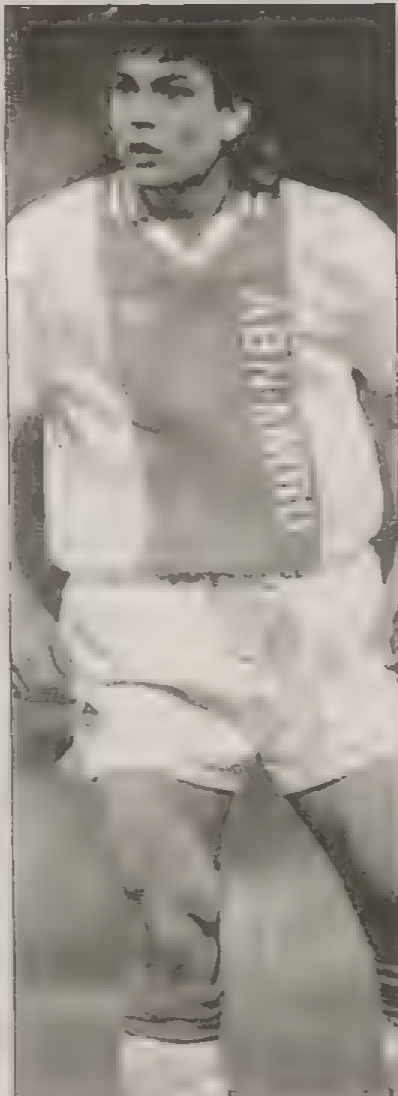
The Greeks were caught cold by Litmanen's early close range strike and rarely threatened up front where Polish hitman Krzysztof Warzycha looked a forlorn figure as the Dutch team's defence cut off the Greek supply line to him.

Spiros Maragos came close midway through the first half, curling a free-kick just over as the Greeks fought to get back on level terms in front of a 74,000-crowd at the Olympic Stadium which included Greek Premier Costas Simitis.

Yorgos Donis, reportedly a transfer target for Manchester United, sparked Panathinaikos' best moves down the right only for the Ajax defence, superbly marshalled by Frank de Boer and Danny Blind, to choke off anything which came their way.



Krzysztof Warzycha: A forlorn figure as the Dutch team's defence cut off the Greek supply line to him.



Jari Litmanen: His two goals saw Ajax always in command.

But Litmanen struck again to effectively end the contest 13 minutes from time and substitute Nordin Wooter rounded off an impressive if unspectacular win with four minutes remaining.

Ajax will be without defender Michael Reiziger for the May 22 final against Juventus in Rome after he collected a second yellow card in Wednesday's game.

The disappointed home fans stayed to the end and applauded off the current European and World Club Champions.

Teams:

Panathinaikos: Wandzik, Apostolakis, Kalitzakis (capt), Kolitsidakis, Kapouranis, G.H. Georgiadis, Markos (Lagonikakis 85), Bolli, Maragos (Nioplias 75), Donis, Warzycha.

Ajax: Van der Sar, Reiziger, F. de Boer, Blind (capt), Silooy (Wooter 75), R. de Boer, Litmanen, Davids, Finidi, Kanu, Bogarde.

JUVENTUS HOLD OUT NANTES IN THRILLER

Juventus reached its first European Cup Final since the 1985 Heysel disaster despite a 3-2 defeat by determined French champions Nantes, in France.

The Italians, 2-0 up after the first leg, won the semi final 4-3 on aggregate and virtually sealed their place as early as the 17th minute when Gianluca Vialli scored an opportunist goal to leave Nantes with four goals to score.

Though Nantes fought bravely and turned the affair into a highly entertaining game, it was a spectacle more than a real contest from then on.

The French team equalised just before halftime through Eric Decroix but Portuguese substitute Paulo Sousa put Juventus ahead again five minutes after the break and goals for Nantes from Japhet N'Doram and Franck Renou in the latter half of the second period were not enough to change the outcome.

Juventus were unable to take pleasure from their only previous European Cup win in 1985 when a riot resulting in the deaths of 39 fans at the Heysel stadium in Brussels marked the match as a tragedy rather than the celebration which had been anticipated.

In the May 22 final with Ajax Amsterdam in Rome, the Italians will clearly be looking for the long overdue chance to win in style and enjoy it too.

If Nantes had the satisfaction of becoming the first side to score three times against Juventus in the European Cup this season, their sloppy defending was bound to be punished by a side as accomplished as the Italians.

Viali scored the first when Nantes failed to clear a free kick from Alessandro Del Piero. Ciro Ferrara miskicked but the ball fell to Viali on the left of the box and the balding striker made no mistake as he flicked the ball inside the far post with the outside of his right foot.

Nantes came to life only after that and began storming the Juventus goal, getting a deserved equaliser though they had to get the ball in the net twice to do so.

Eddy Capron headed towards goal after a corner and the ball appeared to cross the line before Juventus keeper Angelo Peruzzi could punch it clear but Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl gave no goal until Decroix stabbed a rebound into the net.

Juventus removed any threat to their position in the 50th minute when Vialli played a great first-time through ball to Sousa who ran clear and slammed the ball home past advancing Nantes keeper Dominique Casagrande.

Chad midfielder N'Doram, the best Nantes player, equalised again in the 69th minute with a left-foot thunderbolt off the near post after Benoit Cauet put him clear and Cauet also set up the third for Renou eight minutes from the end.

But though Nantes kept pouring forward and created several more chances, the Juventus mountain was too big to climb.

Former Nantes player Didier Deschamps, playing midfield for Juventus, said: "Once we scored the first goal, we knew we were on the way and we managed to control the situation in the second half."

Teams:

Nantes: Dominique Casagrande, Jean-Marc Chanelet, Christophe Pignol (Laurent Peyrelade 88), Eddy Capron, Eric Decroix, Jean-Michel Ferri, Claude



Paylo Sousa: Put Juventus back ahead in France just after the break.

Makelele, Benoit Cauet, Nicolas Ouedec (Jocelyn Gourvennec), Japhet N'Doram, Roman Kosecki (Franck Renou 62).

Juventus: Angelo Peruzzi, Ciro Ferrara, Gianluca Pessotto, Antonio

Conte, Pietro Vierchowod, Massimo Carrera, Angelo Di Livio, Didier Deschamps, Gianluca Vialli (Vladimir Jugovic 78th), Alessandro Del Piero (Paulo Sousa 46). Fabrizio Ravanelli (Michele Padovano 45).



Gianluca Vialli: Scored an opportunist goal for Juventus.

UEFA CUP - UEFA CUP - UEFA CUP - UEFA CUP - UEFA CUP - UEFA CUP - UEFA CUP - UEFA CUP
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SEMI FINALS - SECOND LEG

BAYERN STUN BARCELONA AT NOU CAMP

Bayern's Markus Babel and Marcel Witeczek earned their side's final berth by scoring in a dramatic 2-1 win over Barcelona at the Nou Camp to qualify for the final of the only European competition they have never won.

Defender Babel put the determined Germans on their way with the vital opener seven minutes before the break. And Witeczek was on hand seven minutes from the end to knock the final nail in Barca's coffin after a cruel deflection off Miguel Angel Nadal.

De la Pena's deflected reply with three minutes left on the clock was scant consolation for the home side.

Switzerland's Ciriaco Sforza, who has improved so much at Bayern this year, was ruled out of the Final after his second booking of the tournament.

Bosnian striker Meho Kodro also went close three times in the first period for the Catalan giants as they piled on early pressure without achieving a breakthrough against a well-marshalled Bayern defence. Keeper Oliver Kahn had



Marus Babel: Led the way for Bayern with a goal near half time.

to be alert to stop a curling free-kick from Barca's Romanian international defender Gheorghe Popescu.

But after soaking up more pressure, Otto Rehhagel's three-times European champions began to up the tempo and drew first blood on 38 minutes.

Talented midfield star Mehmet Scholl cut inside from the left to send in a vicious effort which Busquets could only parry into the path of the onrushing Markus Babel. And he made no mistake from the edge of the six yard box.

Jose Bakero blasted over from close range as Barcelona began to betray growing signs of nervousness with the crowd became ever more restless.

After the break, Cruyff tried to inject more inventiveness into his side by sending 19 year-old "Little Buddha" de la Pena into the fray in place of the tiring and increasingly ineffective Kodro.

But Bayern held the back line superbly and sprung a decisive counter-attack seven minutes from the end when Witeczek blasted home the second to kill off all hopes of a Barca revival.

In Bordeaux: Beaudoux (France)1
Slavia Prague (The Czech Republic)0 (halftime 0-0)
Bordeaux win 2-0 on aggregate.
Scorer: Bordeaux, Didier Tholot (46).
Attendance: 32,000.
In Barcelona: Barcelona (Spain)1
Bayern Munich (Germany)2(halftime 0-1)
Scorers: Barcelona, Ivan de la Pena (88)
Bayern Marcus Babel (40), Marcel Witeczek (83).
Bayern win 4-3 on aggregate.
Attendance: 110,000.

UEFA Cup Final
between
Bayern Munich
and Bordeaux will
be played over
two legs on May 1
and 15

Bordeaux into their first final

Bordeaux beat Slavia Prague 1-0 last Tuesday to win through to the UEFA Cup Final where they will face Bayern Munich after a marathon 18-match campaign.

Didier Tholot, out for much of the season after hip, knee and rib problems following a car crash, scored Bordeaux's winner for a 2-0 aggregate victory.

But the night belonged especially to Bordeaux coach Gernot Rohr and his team.

An elated Rohr said afterwards he thought his men could win next month's final whoever they played, but added, "I prefer it's Bayern Munich, where I started my career."

"We had a lot to lose tonight, but we came through. There was less euphoria than in the AC Milan win (in the quarter-final), but this result is more important because we're in the final."

Tholot shot Bordeaux into their first ever European Final, following losses to Juventus in the 1985 Champions Cup semi-final and to Leipzig in the 1987 Cup Winners Cup semi-final.

The only other French team to reach the UEFA Cup Final was Bastia, who lost to PSV Eindhoven in 1978.

Five French clubs have reached a total of seven European finals, with only Marseille winning — in the Champions Cup in 1993.

Bordeaux's efforts were doubly impressive as they have played 18 matches

so far — six in last summer's Intertoto Cup.

But Christophe Dugarry, who scored in the 1-0 first leg, was booked in the 58th minute, his second caution of the competition, meaning Rohr must exclude him from the first leg of the final.

Tholot, after scoring four goals in six games in the Intertoto Cup, had a terrible car accident on August 31 last year.

But his recovery was clear for all to see as he shot home in the 47th minute.

In a solo effort, Tholot ran down the right and cut inside, before shooting with the outside of his right foot forcing Stejskal to parry. But Tholot made no mistake with his left foot on the rebound to put Bordeaux ahead.



CUP WINNERS CUP - CUP WINNERS CUP - CUP WINNERS CUP - CUP WINNERS CUP - CUP WINNERS CUP - CUP WINNERS CUP - CUP WINNERS CUP
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SEMI FINALS - SECOND LEG

Rapid and PSG book Final date

In Vienna: Rapid Vienna (Austria) 3 Feyenoord (Netherlands) 0.
Scorers: Carsten Jancker (2m 32m), Christian Stumpf (34m).
Rapid Vienna advances to the final 4-1 on aggregate.
In Paris: Paris St Germain 1 Deportivo La Coruna (Spain) 0 (halftime 0-0).
Scorer: Patrice Loko (58m)
Attendance: 43,965
PSG wins 2-0 on aggregate and advances to the final.
The final will be played in Brussels on May 8.

Paris Saint Germain will meet Rapid Vienna in the Cup Winners' Cup Final in Brussels on May 8 after the French beat La Coruna 1-0 at the Parc des Princes and the Austrians crushed Feyenoord 3-0 in Vienna.

PSG's triumph, achieved courtesy of a 59th minute goal from Patrice Loko 12 minutes into the second half of a dour encounter against John Toshack's Spanish outfit, ensured that France would have two European finalists for the first time ever, with Bordeaux through to the UEFA Cup final.

Former Cologne striker Carsten Jancker was once again Rapid Vienna's goalscoring hero with a

double against a disappointing Feyenoord, which was seeking to win the cup to complete a clean sweep of European trophies.

The 21-year-old shrugged off a knock on the head seconds after the kick off to escape his marker and open the scoring in the second minute.

The game was over as a contest at the 32nd minute mark when Christian Stumpf fired home a second. A Jancker volley two minutes later put the game beyond the reach of the demoralised Dutch.

"The team played so well they didn't need me today," enthused Rapid coach Ernst Dukopil after the game.

"The third goal was

decisive, as Feyenoord were completely out of it by half-time. They under-estimated us."

Dutch counterpart Arie Haan said ruefully "It started badly for us — first corner, first goal."

As Rapid looks forward to its second final in the competition, having lost to England's Everton in 1985, there were joyful scenes at the Parc des Princes as delirious Paris Saint Germain fans celebrated their side's first ever passage to a European final.

The club had suffered three years of heartbreak after successive semi-final defeats in all three competitions — in 1993 to Juventus in the UEFA Cup,

in 1994 to Arsenal in the Cup Winners' Cup and last year to AC Milan in the Champions' Cup.

But coach Luis Fernandez has built a side the whole of France can be proud of courtesy of Loko's goal.

Fellow French international Youri Djorkaeff — whose brilliant individual effort won the first leg in Spain — controlled the ball, swept past Deportivo midfielder Adolfo Aldana and passed to Loko.

He looked up and coolly shot home from 22 metres past the despairing dive of keeper Francesco Liano.

For Loko, signed from Nantes in the summer, it was a suitable reply to those who doubted whether he was a good buy after he hit the headlines

for off-the-field antics and personal problems at the beginning of the season.

Deportivo created few chances as Brazilian star striker Bebeto was marked out of the game.

"It's an historic night for the club, particularly as it's 25 years old this year," said a jubilant Fernandez, Paris' Spanish born coach, afterwards.

"I would like to congratulate all the players for their performances tonight. Deportivo were not easy to play against and Rapid Vienna will not be either," he added.

Toshack for his part accepted defeat by acknowledging that "Paris are a good side and I wish them luck in the final."



Patrice Loko: Scored only goal in Paris to put PSG into a final at fourth consecutive attempt.

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

DANISH SUPER LEAGUE

— April 15 —

Aalborg	0	Silkeborg	1
Bronby	6	Vejle	0
FC Copenhagen	2	Viborg	0
Ikast	0	Lyngby	5
Aarhus	3	Naestved	1
Odense	5	Herfølge	1

TABLE

Bronby	25	16	5	4	57	24	53
Aarhus	24	15	7	2	49	19	52
Lyngby	23	11	7	5	46	23	40
Odense	23	11	6	6	40	25	39
FC Copenhagen	25	10	8	7	39	34	38
Aalborg	24	10	5	9	40	26	35
Silkeborg	23	10	4	9	31	31	34
Vejle	25	6	7	12	24	42	25
Viborg	24	6	7	11	35	56	25
Ikast	25	4	7	14	22	48	19
Naestved	23	4	6	13	24	57	18
Herfølge	24	4	5	15	26	48	17

ARGENTINA CHAMPIONSHIP

Deportivo Espanol	1	Velez Sarsfield	2
Estudiantes	2	Banfield	2
Gimnasia Juvuy	0	Belgrano	2
Huracan	1	San Lorenzo	1
Newell's Old Boys	1	Boca Juniors	0
Racing Club	0	Rosario Central	1
River Plate	1	Independiente	4
Lanus	3	Gimnasia La Plata	1
Platense	1	Argentinos Jrs	0
(match abandoned 80th minute - floodlight failure)			
FC Oeste	0	Colon	0

TABLE

Lanus	6	4	1	1	12	5	13
Boca Juniors	6	4	1	1	10	4	13
E La Plata	6	4	1	1	11	6	13
Ga de Juvuy	6	4	0	2	9	9	12
Dep Espanol	6	3	2	1	8	4	11
Rosario Central	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Racing Club	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Velez Sarsfield	6	3	2	1	10	8	11
G La Plata	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
Huracan	6	2	3	1	9	7	9
Platense	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Belgrano	6	1	3	2	7	9	6
Independiente	5	2	0	3	6	8	6
River Plate	6	2	0	4	10	13	6
FC Oeste	6	1	3	2	5	5	6
N Old Boys	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Colon Santa Fe	6	1	1	4	4	8	4
Banfield	6	1	1	4	7	10	4
San Lorenzo	6	1	1	4	5	10	4
Argentinos Jrs	5	0	0	5	3	13	0

SAO PAULO CHAMPIONSHIP

A/S. Jose	2	Juventus	2
Aracatuba	3	Novorizontino	2
B/Ribeiro Preto	3	Mogi Mirim	2
Guarani	0	Sao Paulo	1
Rio Branco	3	Ferroviaria	0
Palmeiras	5	UniaoSao Joao	0
Santos	2	Portuguesa	2
Xv de Jau	1	Corinthians	2

TABLE

Palmeiras	4	4	0	0	16	2	12
Sao Paulo	4	4	0	0	9	2	12
Corinthians	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Botafoogo	4	3	0	1	8	6	9
Aracatuba	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Santos	4	2	1	1	13	7	7
Rio Branco	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
America	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Portuguesa	4	1	2	1	8	6	5
Juventus	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Guarani	4	0	2	2	1	3	2
Uniao Sao Joao	4	0	2	2	3	14	2
Mogi Mirim	4	0	1	3	3	6	1
Novorizontino	4	0	1	3	5	11	1
XV de Jau	4	0	1	3	3	10	1
Ferroviaria	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP

Volta Redonda	0	Fluminense	1
Americano	1	Bangu	0
Barreira	1	Olaria	0
Flamengo	3	Madureira	0
Itaperuna	1	A/Rio de Janeiro	0

Vasco da Gama	5	Fluminense	3
Volta Redonda	0	Botafoogo	1

TABLE

Flamengo	7	7	0	0	20	5	21
Vasco da Gama	7	6	0	1	20	9	18
Fluminense	8	5	0	3	16	12	15
Botafoogo	7	4	2	1	16	9	14
Americano	7	4	1	2	6	4	13
Bangu	7	2	3	2	12	8	9
America	7	2	3	2	7	6	9
Itaperuna	7	2	2	3	6	6	8
Madureira	7	1	1	5	7	15	4
Barreira	7	1	1	5	6	19	4
Volta Redonda	8	0	3	5	4	12	3
Olaria	7	0	2	5	7	22	2

COPA BRASIL SECOND ROUND,

SECOND LEG

Cruzeiro	1	Vasco da Gama	1
(Cruzeiro win 7-3 on aggregate)			
Flamengo	0	Coritiba	0
(Flamengo win 2-1)			

MEXICAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER-FINAL,

FIRST LEG

Cruz Azul	0	America	3
Monterrey	2	Celaya	2
UNAM	0	Necaxa	1
Veracruz	1	Atlas	1

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Midweek

(There were no matches last weekend)
 Aston Villa 1 (McGrath 27m) West Ham 1) Collee 85m). Halftime 1-0. Attendance 26,768.
 Blackburn 3 (Shearer 13m 46m, Fenton 58m) Wimbledon 2 (Earle 22m, Gayle 48m). 1-1. 24,174.
 Manchester United 1 (Keane 72m) Leeds 0. 0-0. 48,382.
 Newcastle 1 (Lee 10m) Southampton 0. 1-0. 36,554.
 Nottingham Forest 0 Coventry 0. 24,629.
 Sheffield Wednesday 0 Chelsea 0. 25,094.

TABLE

Manchester Utd	36	23	7	6	65	35	76
Newcastle	35	23	4	8	63	35	73
Liverpool	35	19	9	7	67	32	66
Aston Villa	36	18	9	9	52	33	63
Arsenal	35	16	10	9	46	30	58
Blackburn	36	17	6	13	57	44	57
Tottenham	35	15	11	9	45	35	56
Everton	36	15	10	11	58	42	55
Nottingham Forest	35	14	12	9	46	48	54
West Ham	36	14	8	14	42	48	50
Chelsea	36	12	13	11	43	40	49
Middlesbrough	36	11	10	15	35	46	43
Leeds	35	12	6	17	39	53	42
Wimbledon	36	10	10	16	55	68	40
Sheffield Wednesday	36	10	9	17	45	55	39
Southampton	36	8	10	18	33	52	34
Coventry	36	7	13	16	40	60	34
Manchester City	36	8	10	18	30	56	34
QPR	36	8	6	22	35	54	30
Bolton	36	8	5	23	38	68	29

NORTHERN IRISH PREMIER LEAGUE

— April 21 —

Ards	2	Bangor	1
Cliftonville	2	Crusaders	1
Glenferris	3	Linsfield	0
Portadown	2	Glenavon	1

TABLE

Portadown	27	16	7	4	58	37	55
Crusaders	27	15	6	6	42	29	51
Glenavon	27	13	5	9	46	29	44
Glenferris	27	12	7	8	53	37	43
Linsfield	27	11	7	9	34	35	40
Cliftonville	27	5	11	11	24	46	26
Ards	27	6	6	15	29	43	24
Bangor	27	3	5	19	21	51	14

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Derby	1	Birmingham	1
Grimsby	0	Sheffield Utd	2
Leicester	2	Huddersfield	1
Luton	0	Watford	0
Millwall	0	Oldham	1
Norwich	2	West Bromwich	2
Port Vale	1	Tranmere	1
Portsmouth	0	Barnsley	0
Reading	0	Charlton	0

Southend	2	Ipswich	1
Wolverhampton	0	Crystal Palace	2
Sunderland	0	Stoke	0

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackpool	1	Swindon	1
Bournemouth	0	Walsall	0
Bradford	2	Chesterfield	1
Brighton	1	Carlisle	0
Bristol City	0	Oxford	2
Crewe	0	Rotherham	2
Notts County	1	Burnley	1
Peterborough	0	Bristol Rovers	0
Shrewsbury	2	Brentford	1
Stockport	3	York	0
Wrexham	5	Hull	0
Wycombe	0	Swansea	1

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Cardiff	0	Plymouth	1
Darlington	4	Bury	0
Doncaster	1	Barnet	0
Exeter	2	Colchester	2
Fulham	1	Wigan	0
Hartlepool	3	Lincoln	0
Leyton Orient	0	Preston	2
Mansfield	1	Hereford	2
Northampton	1	Gillingham	1
Rochdale	1	Scunthorpe	1
Scarborough	2	Cambridge Utd	0
Torquay	1	Chester	1

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Aberdeen	1	Hearts	1
Celtic	4	Falkirk	0
Hibernian	1	Raith	1
Kilmarnock	2	Partick	1
Motherwell	1	Rangers	3

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Dundee	3	Clydebank	0
Dunfermline	4	Dumbarton	1
Greenock Morton	1	St Johnstone	0
Hamilton	P	Dundee Utd	P
St Mirren	2	Airdrieonians	1

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Berwick	1	Stranraer	0
Clyde	2	Ayr	0
East Fife	1	Forfar	0
Montrose	0	Stirling	3
Stenhousemuir	1	Queen of South	3

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Alloa	0	Brechin	3
Arbroath	1	Ross County	1
Caledonian	1	Albion	1
East Stirling	1	Cowdenbeath	1
Queen's Park	0	Livingston	0

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Sunderland	44	22	16	6	59	31	82
Derby	44	20	16	8	67	47	76
Crystal Palace	44	20	15	9	66	45	75
Stoke	43	18	13	12	56	45	67
Charlton	43	16	18	9	53	43	66
Leicester	44	17	14	13	62	60	65
Ipswich	43	17	11	15	76	68	62
Huddersfield	43	17	11	15	60	55	62
Birmingham	44	15	13	16	60	59	58
Sheffield Utd	44	15	13	16	53	53	58
Southend	44	15	13	16	51	59	58
Port Vale	42	14	14	14	54	59	56
West Bromwich	43	15	10	18	56	65	55
Barnsley	43	13	16	14	55	63	55
Tranmere	43	13	15	15	61	59	54
Norwich	44	13	15	16	57	53	54
Grimsby	43	14	12	17	60	61	54
Wolverhampton	43	13	14	16	55	58	53
Millwall	44	13	12	19	41	60	51
Reading	43	11	17	15	49	59	50
Portsmouth	44	12	13	19	60	68	49
Oldham	43	12	13	18	50	49	49
Watford	43	8	18	17	54	65	42
Luton	42	10	12	20	36	57	42

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

— April 20 —

Bastia	1	Auxerre	1
Bordeaux	0	Lens	0
Cannes	2	Montpellier	1
Gueugnon	0	Lyon	0
Guingamp	0	Rennes	0
Lille	1	Nice	0
Monaco	2	Le Havre	1
Nantes	2	Strasbourg	0
St Etienne	1	Metz	1

TABLE

Auxerre	35	20	5	10	61	28	65
Paris St Germain	34	18	9	7	58	32	63
Metz	35	18	10	7	38	27	62
Monaco	35	17	10	8	53	33	61
Lens	35	15	14	6	40	24	59
Montpellier	35	16	9	10	48	37	57
Rennes	35	13	14	8	40	35	53
Guingamp	35	13	13	9	32	27	52
Strasbourg	35	13	11	11	44	39	50
Nantes	34	13	11	10	39	37	50
Lyon	35	9	17	9	36	36	44
Bastia	35	12	8	15	42	45	44
Le Havre	34	11	9	14	31	41	42
Cannes	35	11	7	17	40	48	40
Bordeaux	34	10	7	17	39	48	37
Nice	35	9	9	17	32	43	36
St Etienne	35	6	15	14	34	53	33
Lille	35	7	12	16	24	47	33
Gueugnon	35	6	13	16	24	45	31
Martigues	33	7	4	22	23	53	25

YUGOSLAV LEAGUE DIVISION B

— April 20 —

Mladost (BJ)	0	Obilic	2
Zemun	1	Buducnost	2
Loznica	1	OFK Beograd	3
Napredak	2	Radnicki (B)	3
Hajduk	1	Borac	0

TABLE

Zemun	13	7	3	3	18	8	31
Hajduk	13	7	3	3	15	11	30
Borac	13	8	2	3	20	9	28
Buducnost	13	5	4	4	12	12	22
Obilic	13	5	1	7	15	17	21
OFK Beograd	13	5	2	6	16	19	21
Mladost (BJ)	13	5	1	7	14	19	20
Loznica	13	5	2	6	16	16	19
Napredak	13	4	3	6	13	16	18
Radnicki (B)	13	2	3	8	11	23	16

Note: Teams began the Spring season with bonus points awarded at the end of the Autumn seson of the 1995-96 championship.

JAPANESE J LEAGUE

— April 20 —

Hiroshima	0	Kashiwa	1
Kashima	1	Urawa	0
Ichihara	3	Nagoya	0
Yokohama F	1	Yokohama M	2
Shimizu	0	Fukuoka	2
Kyoto	0	Hiratsuka	2
Osaka C	2	Iwata	1

TABLE

Yokohama F	8	1	19	6	24
Kashima	7	2	26	10	22
Iwata	7	2	18	9	22
Nagoya	7	2	19	10	21
Urawa	6	3	12	9	18
Kawasaki	5	4	18	14	15
Osaka G	5	4	14	17	15
Shimizu	4	5	17	14	13
Hiroshima	4	5	9	8	12
Kashiwa	4	5	14	17	12
Hiratsuka	4	5	10	20	12
Ichihara	3	6	10	11	9
Yokohama M	3	6	11	14	9
Fukuoka	3	6	13	19	9
Osaka C	2	7	9	18	6
Kyoto	0	9	4	27	0

Note: Losers in penalty shoot-outs are awarded 1 point.

SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP

— April 18 —

Basle	0	Grasshoppers	2
Neuchatel	1	Servette	1

Sion	2	Aarau	0
St Gallen	1	Lucerne	0

TABLE

Grasshopper	8	5	3	0	16	3	40
Sion	8	5	0	3	12	8	36
Neuchatel	8	4	2	2	12	9	35
Aarau	8	4	3	1	14	8	29
Lucerne	7	2	1	4	10	8	27
Servette	8	1	5	2	12	11	22
St-Gall	8	1	2	5	2	21	19
Basle	7	0	2	5	4	14	17

TURKEY'S FIRST DIVISION

— April 15 —

Istanbulspor	1	Antalyaspor	0
Ankaragucu	2	Galatasaray	2
Trabzonspor	1	Samsunspor	0
Karsiyaka	1	Kayserispor	3
Denizlispor	0	Gaziantepspor	1
Bursaspor	1	Besiktas	2
Vanspor	2	Kocaelispor	2
Fenerbahce	0	Genclerbirligi	0
Eskisehirspor	1	Altay	2

TABLE

Trabzonspor	29	23	4	2	63	18	73
Fenerbahce	29	21	6	2	59	18	69
Besiktas	29	22	3	4	70	30	69
Galatasaray	29	18	5	6	62	31	59
Kocaelispor	29	13	10	6	47	36	49
Antalyaspor	29	11	6	12	41	50	39
Gaziantepspor	29	10	7	12	35	39	37
Samsunspor	29	10	6	13	36	36	36
Genclerbirligi	29	8	11	10	36	41	35
Bursaspor	29	8	10	11	49	43	34
Istanbulspor	29	8	9	12	41	43	33
Ankaragucu	29	8	6	15	30	50	30
Denizlispor	29	7	8	14	32	45	29
Altay	29	7	8	14	28	50	29
Vanspor	29	6	9	14	29	47	27
Kayserispor	29	5	10	14	36	56	25
Karsiyaka	29	6	6	17	19	53	24
Eskisehirspor	29	7	2	20	33	60	23

HUNGARIAN FIRST DIVISION

— April 15 —

Pecs MFC	0	Ujpest TE	2
MTK FC	3	DVSC Epona	1
Stadler FC	1	Vasas Casino Vigado	0
Csepel SC	1	Vac FC Samsung	0
BVSC-Dreher	1	Bekescsaba EFC	1
Gyori ETO FC	0	Fehervar 96 FC	0
Zalaegerszeg TE	0	Kispest-Honved FC	0
Ferencvarosi TC	0	Haladas VFC	0

TABLE

BVSC-Dreher	20	14	5	1	39	17	47
Ferencvarosi	20	13	2	5	35	17	41
Ujpest TE	20	9	7	4	27	16	34
DVSC Epona	20	9	4	7	28	24	31
Kispest-Honved FC	20	7	8	5	28	22	29
Vasas Casino Vigado	20	7	8	5	26	23	29
Csepel SC	20	7	7	6	32	30	28
MTK FC	20	7	6	7	41	35	27
Stadler FC	20	5	11	4	26	25	27
Vac FC-Samsung	20	6	8	6	31	28	26
Zalaegerszeg TE	20	6	7	7	29	33	25
Haladas VFC	20	5	6	9	18	31	21
Bekescsaba EFC	20	3	9	8	21	31	18
Fehervar 96 FC	20	5	3	12	22	40	18
Gyori ETO FC	20	3	7	10	19	33	16
Pecs MFC	20	4	2	14	16	33	11

Three penalty points have been deducted from Pecs MFC. The name of Parmalat FC has been changed to Fehervar FC.

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

— April 21 —

RKC Waalwijk	0	Sparta Rotterdam	0
Twente Enschede	0	Heerenveen	1
Utrecht	2	Vitesse Arnhem	0
F Rotterdam	1	Fortuna Sittard	0
Volendam	1	NAC Breda	2
Groningen	3	Ajax Amsterdam	4
Roda JC Kerkrade	5	GAE Deventer	0
Willem II Tilburg	1	De G Doetinchem	0
PSV Eindhoven	1	NEC Nijmegen	0

TABLE

Ajax Amsterdam	32	25	4	3	92	23	79
PSV Eindhoven	32	23	5	4	91	22	74
F Rotterdam	32	16	9	7	59	35	57

Roda JC Kerkrade	32	14	11	7	45	33	53
NAC Breda	32	14	10	8	57	34	52
Sparta Rotterdam	32	13	11	8	50	47	50
Heerenveen	32	13	11	8	61	61	50
Vitesse Arnhem	32	14	7	11	45	43	49
Twente Enschede	32	14	6	12	45	51	48
Groningen	32	10	13	9	41	44	43
RKC Waalwijk	32	10	10	12	40	42	40
Willem II Tilburg	32	9	12	11	51	51	39
Fortuna Sittard	32	6	11	15	25	52	29
De G Doetinchem	32	6	9	17	36	65	27
Volendam	32	6	8	18	25	60	26
Utrecht	32	5	9	18	24	57	24
GAE Deventer	32	5	7	20	38	65	22
NEC Nijmegen	32	5	7	20	30	70	22

AUSTRIA FIRST DIVISION

— April 21 —

GAK	1	FC Tirol Innsbruck	3
Admira/Wacker	0	Sturm Graz	2
SV Ried	1	SV Salzburg	1
Vorwaerts Steyr	2	Austria Vienna	2
Rapid Vienna	2	Linzer ASK	1

TABLE

Rapid Vienna	28	17	5	6	47	28	56
Sturm Graz	28	17	4	7	51	26	55
FC Tirol Innsbruck	28	15	5	8	53	32	50
GAK	28	12	9	7	34	27	45
Austria Vienna	29	11	8	10	35	26	41
Linzer ASK	28	10	7	11	27	26	37
SV Ried	28	8	11	9	33	41	35
SV Salzburg	28	7	12	9	38	40	33
Admira/Wacker	29	6	11	12	29	46	29
Vorwaerts Steyr	28	0	4	24	19	74	4

SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP

— April 21 —

Basle	1	Lucerne	0
Grasshopper	3	St Gallen	0
Neuchatel	3	Aarau	1
Servette	0	Sion	1

TABLE

Grasshopper	9	6	3	0	19	3	43
Sion	9	6	0	3	13	8	39
Neuchatel	9	5	2	2	15	9	38
Aarau	9	4	3	2	15	11	29
Lucerne	8	2	1	5	10	9	27
Servette	9	1	5	3	12	12	22
Basle	8	1	2	5	5	14	20
St Gallen	9	1	2	6	2	24	19

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

— April 21 —

Belenenses	2	Gil Vicente	2
Estrela Amadora	2	Chaves	3
Guimaraes	2	Leca	0
Saquareiros	0	Boavista	2
Mantimo	2	Braga	1
Uniao Leiria	4	Campomaiorense	0

TABLE

Porto	31	25	5	1	80	16	80
Benfica	31	19	7	5	49	26	64
Boavista	31	18	6	7	53	25	60
Sporting	31	17	9	5	62	25	60
Guimaraes	31	18	5	8	51	30	59
Belenenses	31	13	9	9	48	31	48
Uniao Leiria	31	14	4	13	37	44	46
Maritimo	31	12	6	13	37	45	42
Braga	31	11	8	12	38	43	41
Salgueiros	31	7	14	10	36	41	35
Leca	31	9	6	16	28	46	33
Gil Vicente	31	8	9	14	29	46	33
Farense	31	9	4	18	31	43	31
Amadora	31	6	12	13	31	48	30
Felgueiras	31	7	9	15	26	44	30
Chaves	31	7	7	17	35	52	28
Tirsense	31	6	9	16	26	49	27
Campomaiorense	31	7	3	21	24	67	24



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



ARGENTINA WORLD CUP SQUAD ANNOUNCED



Ariel Ortega: River Plate midfielder.

Daniel Passarella finally named the 22 members of the Argentine national team to face Bolivia, on April 24, for the South American World Cup qualifying tournament.

The squad is:
Goalkeepers: Carlos Bossio (Estudiantes de La Plata), Oscar Passet (San Lorenzo).

Defenders: Javier Zanetti (Inter Milan, Italy), Gustavo Lombardi (River Plate), Roberto Ayala (Napoli, Italy), Pablo Paz (Banfield), Roberto Sensini (Parma, Italy), Nestor Fabbri (Boca Juniors), Jose

Chamot (Lazio, Italy), Juan Carlos Ramirez (Independiente).

Midfielders: Diego Simeone (Atletico Madrid, Spain), Christian Bessedas (Velez Sarsfield), Matias Almeyda (River Plate), Fernando Galletto (San Lorenzo), Gustavo Lopez (Zaragoza, Spain), Hugo Morales (Lanus), Ariel Ibagaza (Lanus), Ariel Ortega (River Plate).

Strikers: Abel Balbo (AC Roma, Italy), Gabriel Batistuta (Boca Juniors), Claudio Lopez (Racing Club) and Claudio Caniggia from Boca Juniors (to be confirmed).

URUGUAY'S WORLD CUP X1

Uruguayan national coach, Hector Nunez announced the team to face Venezuela in the opening match of the South American World Cup qualifying tournament.

The match will be played in Caracas tomorrow.

The most probable starting 11 is:

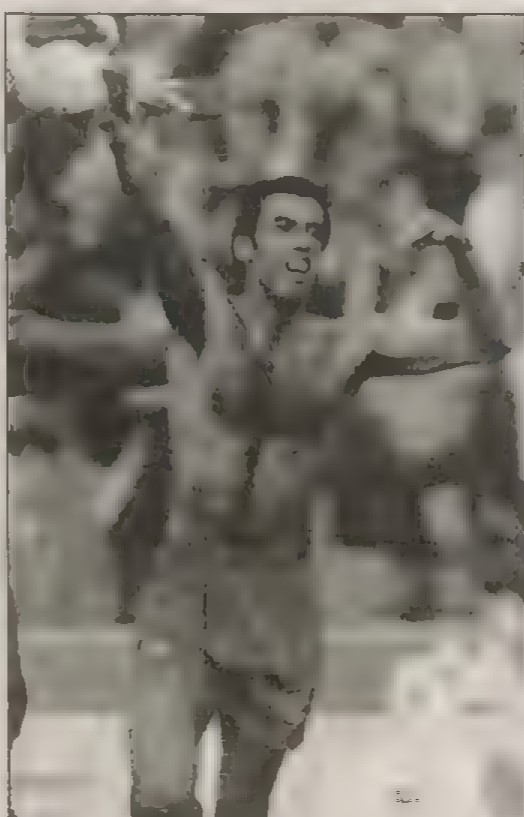
Goalkeeper: Claudio Arbiza (Colo Colo, Chile)

Defenders: Gustavo Mendez (Vicenza, Italy), Eber Moas (Monterrey, Mexico), Jose Herrera (Atalanta, Italy) and Paolo Montero (Atalanta, Italy).

Midfielders: Gustavo Poyet (Zaragoza, Spain), Alvaro Gutierrez (Valladolid, Spain), Marcelo Saralegui (Colin of Santa Fe, Argentina), and Pablo Bengoechea, (Penarol, Uruguay).

Strikers: Daniel Fonseca (Roma, Italy) and Marcelo Otero (Vicenza, Italy).

Nunez and Uruguay top officials will try, once more, to convince South American "Player of the Year", and former Uruguayan captain,



Daniel Fonseca: Selected and travelling from Italy to oppose Venezuela.

Enzo Francescoli, to come back from international retirement.

Francescoli is currently playing for Argentine giant River Plate.

Bilardo favours Uruguay & Argentina

Former Argentine 1986 World Cup winning coach, Carlos Salvador Bilardo, who is currently guiding Boca Juniors in the Argentine first division championship, is betting on Uruguay and Argentina as the two team who are sure of qualifying for France '98.

"Argentina is playing really well and Uruguay is always a strong side, even without Francescoli," said Bilardo, adding that among the other contenders all have similar chances.

Bilardo also said that he has some doubts about Colombia's chances. The fact that its coach, Dario Gomez, has to reply on the old brigade of Carlos

Valderrama, Leonel Alvarez and company, shows the absence of new talents and the difficult economic situation of most of the top Colombian clubs.

The controversial tactician added that most of the South American nations have improved in the last few years with the exception of Venezuela and to some extent, Chile.

"Venezuela hasn't improved at all. Baseball is still the most important sport in the country and football is almost nothing. Chile had a very bad Copa America but I like the standard of their first division league," said Bilardo.

Argentine League

Boca Juniors' undefeated run in the Argentine league second phase ended last weekend when it went down 1-0 against Newell's Old Boys. Hernan Franco scored the only goal of the match in the 24th minute of the first half.

Diego Maradona, who missed a penalty, will be out of action for at least three weeks. The former Argentine captain pulled a muscle during the game while defender Gamboa was set off, and defender Nestor Fabbri and star striker Claudio Paul

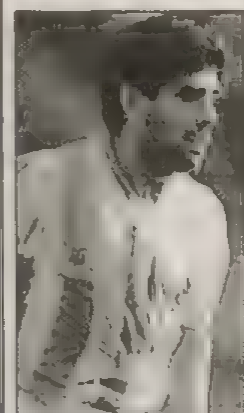
Cannigia will miss one match through suspension.

Another team who suffered its first defeat, after six rounds, was Racing Club. Rosario Central beat Racing, also 1-0, with a goal scored by defender Gordillo in the 63rd minute.

Meanwhile, South American Supercup champions, Independiente, scored its second victory in the tournament by thrashing rivals River Plate, 4-1.

Uruguayan striker Gabriel Alvez twice, former Argentine international midfielder Jorge Burruchaga, and Uruguayan international Diego Martin Dorta scored for the "red devils" while another Uruguayan, Gabriel Cedres, netted for River Plate.

The future of River Plate's coach Ramon Diaz was in serious doubt after a disastrous start in the competition, losing four of the first six matches. The last one considered an embarrassment for a club who had high expectations at the beginning of the season.



Diego Maradona: Missed a penalty.

22 - total gate at Fluminense

Only 22 fans paid to watch Fluminense, one of Brazil's biggest clubs, play in a Rio de Janeiro championship match last week.

Brazilian fans, famous for their passion, are also extremely fickle and show their displeasure at poor results by staying away.

Fluminense may be the defending champion but it had conceded eight goals in losing its last two games in the competition though it beat Volta Redonda 1-0 in the game which produced total gate receipts of \$A280.

PAGE 25: ARGENTINE, BRAZILIAN AND MEXICAN LEAGUE RESULTS

Libertadores Cup

FIRST ROUND

Note: Top three teams in each group qualify for the second round. Holders Gremio have a bye to the second round.

GROUP ONE

In Asuncion: Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) 1
Barcelona (Ecuador) 0 (halftime 0-0)
Scorer: Blas Cristaldo (85m)
Attendance: 6,000

TABLE									
Barcelona	5	4	0	1	10	7	12		
Cerro Porteno	6	3	1	2	8	7	10		
Espoli	6	2	0	4	7	10	6		
Olimpia	5	1	1	3	4	5	4		

GROUP TWO

In Montevideo: Penarol (Uruguay) 1
Universitario (Peru) 2 (1-1)
Penarol — Federico Magallanes (7m)
Universitario — Jose Carasas (3m), Carlos Gonzalez (68m)
Attendance: 7,000

In Montevideo: Defensor Sporting 0
(Uruguay) and Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0
Attendance: 2,000

TABLE									
Penarol	6	2	3	1	13	10	9		

Defensor Sporting	6	1	4	1	6	6	7		
Sporting Cristal	6	1	4	1	6	7	7		
Universitario	6	2	1	3	7	9	7		

GROUP THREE

In Barranquilla, Colombia: Junior (Colombia)
1 San Jose (Bolivia) 0 (1-0)
Scorer: Toninho (37m penalty)
Attendance: 15,000

TABLE									
Junior	6	3	1	2	8	6	10		
America	5	3	0	2	9	2	9		
San Jose	5	3	0	2	6	6	9		
Guabira	6	1	1	4	7	16	4		

GROUP FOUR

In Sao Paulo: Corinthians (Brazil) 3
Universidad de Chile (Chile) 1 (1-1)
Scorers:

Corinthians — Edmundo (16m), Leonardo (51m 76m)
Universidad de Chile — Rodrigo Goldberg (38m)
Attendance: 20,759

TABLE									
Corinthians	6	4	1	1	13	6	13		
Uni de Chile	5	3	1	1	6	4	10		
Botafogo	5	1	1	3	7	9	4		
Uni Catolica	6	1	1	4	6	13	4		

GROUP FIVE

In Buenos Aires: San Lorenzo (Argentina) 5
Caracas FC (Venezuela) 1 (2-0)

Scorers:
San Lorenzo — Claudio Biaggio (16m), Roberto Montserrat (43m 61m), Silas (77m penalty), Claudio Rivaldero (86m)
Caracas FC — Gerson Diaz (46m)
Attendance: 7,000

In Buenos Aires: River Plate (Argentina) 2
Caracas (Venezuela) 0 (0-0).

Scorers: Hernan Crespo (46), Facundo Villalba (55)

TABLE									
River Plate	6	4	2	0	14	3	14		
San Lorenzo	6	2	4	0	13	5	10		
Minerven	6	1	2	3	8	16	5		
Caracas FC	5	0	2	3	6	15	2		

SECOND ROUND DRAW

— Barcelona (Ecuador) v San Jose (Bolivia)
— Penarol (Uruguay) v Botafogo (Brazil) or Universidad Catolica (Chile)
— Junior (Colombia) v Minerven (Venezuela)
— Corinthians (Brazil) v Olimpia (Paraguay) or Espoli (Ecuador)

— River Plate (Argentina) v Sporting Cristal (Peru)
— Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) v America (Colombia)
— Universidad de Chile (Chile) v Defensor Sporting (Uruguay)
— San Lorenzo (Argentina) v Gremio (Brazil)

Teams in bold will play first game at home.

Rokerites so close

Sunderland's championship celebrations remain on ice after a disappointing 0-0 draw at home to Stoke in their English First Division clash on Sunday.

Manager Peter Reid's division one leader now needs to gain a point at home to West Brom on Saturday to clinch the title.

Next season it should join north-east England neighbours Newcastle and Middlesbrough in the premier league — the first time in 42 years the trio have been in the top flight together.

There was a party atmosphere at Roker Park on Sunday with the club having secured promotion on Saturday when second-placed Derby failed to beat Birmingham.

Derby is six points behind

Sunderland with two games to play.

Fourth-placed Stoke, with a premier league hope of its own, was well organised and worth a point, although Sunderland substitute Michael Bridges, 17, could have sewn up victory — and the championship — when put clean through by Michael Gray in the second half, but he grazed the ball past the post.

Bridges's misery was complete two minutes from time when he was carried off on a stretcher with his legs strapped together.

Former Everton star Reid has transformed the fortunes of Sunderland who have now gone 17 games without defeat, a club record.

The premier league was on hold due to England's international against Croatia tomorrow.

Tight results in USA

No wonder the United States has not embraced soccer — they are having trouble figuring out that players are supposed to be scoring against the other team's goalkeepers.

Own goals decided two Major League Soccer matches last weekend, a somewhat embarrassing finish to games that have brought surprisingly large crowds to watch the return of first-division football after more than a decade.

An own goal off the leg of defender Nicola Caricola in the final minute gave New England Revolution a 1-0 victory over New York/New Jersey MetroStars, spoiling their home opener.

In the final minute, New England's Darren Sawatzky took a shot from 10 yards out on the right side and MetroStars goalkeeper Tony Meola punched clear.

But the ball cannoned forward off Caricola's leg

and rolled back past an out-of-position Meola, just inside the right post for the game's only goal.

The Revolution improved to 1-1 while the MetroStars fell to 0-2 before 46,826 in the stadium where Pele and New York Cosmos once roamed.

An own goal in the 28th minute proved to be the game-winner as Tampa Bay Mutiny beat Columbus Crew 2-1.

After Martin Vasquez opened the scoring for Tampa Bay Crew defender Mark Watson and goalkeeper Bo Oshoniyi miscommunicated on a back pass that rolled into the net.

South African star Doctor Khumalo scored the only goal for Columbus, which fell to 1-1. The Mutiny rose to 2-0.

Unbeaten Los Angeles Triumph was victorious over Washington by 2-1.



Tony Meola: USA international keeper playing with New York MetroStars.

UEFA SUGGEST CO-HOSTING

In a late bid to defuse bidding tensions over the 2002 World Cup finals, European soccer chiefs last week proposed that Japan and South Korea should co-host the tournament.

UEFA President Lennart Johansson said he had written to the world body, FIFA, with the suggestion.

FIFA officials said they had not yet seen the proposals and so could not give an immediate reaction. However, the idea is likely to get a cool response from FIFA President Joao Havelange as it comes less than six weeks before the final decision is due.

After a day-long Executive committee meeting, Johansson said UEFA planned to meet European Union officials next week for further

talks on the controversial EU order to scrap restrictions on foreign players.

UEFA will propose that there should be a majority of "home-grown" players in teams playing in European competition, he said.

This means players — regardless of nationality — who have been trained and educated in any given country.

Under threat of massive EU fines, UEFA was forced earlier this year to scrap its restrictions on foreign players plus two assimilated ones in any one given team.

In a further decision, UEFA lifted a three-season ban imposed last year on Ukraine's top club Dynamo Kiev for attempting to bribe a referee in a European Cup match.

Arab team into Israel's top

Hapoel Taibe became the first Arab soccer team to gain promotion to Israel's top division.

The side, which comprises both Arab and Jewish players and is coached by a Jew, was guaranteed a place in the National League when an Israel Football Association court awarded the Second Division leaders a technical 2-0 win over Hapoel Ramat Gan.

With six rounds remaining in the league, Taibe have 55 points, nine more than second-placed Hapoel Jerusalem and 20 more than the team in third place, Ironi Ashdod.

Two sides are promoted to Israel's 16-team National League.

ICELAND CAP FATHER AND SON

A father and son were last week selected in the Iceland squad for an international match against Estonia on April 24.

The Icelanders selected midfielder Armar Gudjohnsen, 34, and his son Eidur Smari, 17, a striker, for the Estonia game.

"I have dreamed of this moment since 1986," said Gudjohnsen who plays for Swedish first division side Orebro.

There have been many instances of brothers, even four for one country, but as far as is known this is the first instance of father and son in the same country's team together.

Romania settle on existing coach

Romania's national coach Anghel Iordanescu has extended his contract for another two years only a month after he resigned saying his allegations of match rigging at club level had been ignored.

Romanian Soccer Federation president Mircea Sandu told Reuters last week that Iordanescu had relented and been secured for the national side at least for the time being.

"There was till now a verbal agreement between Iordanescu and the federation but now we have a document signed. It means our cooperation will be sure," Sandu said.

Sandu confirmed that Iordanescu is in charge of getting Romania to qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals in France. He became a national

hero and was promoted to General in the Romanian army or taking Romania to the quarter-finals of the 1994 World cup in the United States.

Iordanescu quit last month, maintaining that the federation had not investigated his allegations of match rigging at the club level of the Romanian game. He rescinded his decision a few days later when President Ion Iliescu intervened.

Soccer and parliamentary authorities now say they will look into Iordanescu's charges that powerful forces in domestic soccer are rigging the club championship. Presidents of some of the leading clubs, most state owned and affiliated to the armed forces and police, have rejected Iordanescu's claims.

Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISHOVICH

23 year old Lugano striker Tomislav Erceg will stay in Switzerland where he has scored 18 goals this season but will change his shirt to that of the Grasshoppers. Erceg has been in great touch this season and Grasshoppers wasted no time in signing him for a two year contract. The former Hajduk Split player earlier on knocked back offers from Inter Milan and Torino in the Serie A simply because the Swiss were offering much more money for his services.

Padova's Goran Vlaovic is back in the spotlight and has added to his tally of goals in the Serie A, he now has 12 goals in just as many matches. If that wasn't enough he has also done well at international level scoring five goals in five matches for Croatia.

Those who don't know much about Goran would be surprised to know that he had a nearly fatal operation on his brain which saw him miss most of this current season but thanks to god and Goran's fighting spirit he fought back and is having his best season yet. Goran is now 100% OK and ready for Euro '96 where everyone is tipping him to be in the starting eleven for Croatia.

Hajduk Split have signed an Albanian called Nuhui from Tirana who is a midfielder with a great eye for goal. The Albanian will take the place of Vik Lalic who has been sent on loan to 2nd Division club Neretva.

Austrian footballer of the year Ivica Vastic is looking forward to life in Turin for next

season where he will be playing for Torino. However he and fellow Croat Veldin Karic will have to settle for playing in the Serie B as Torino look like being relegated from Serie A this season. Vastic is still optimistic and says "If its good enough for Batistuta it's good enough for me." (i.e. Batistuta played one year in Serie B for Fiorentina).

AC Milan's midfielder Zvone Boban is yet to make his comeback on the soccer pitch as he fights a virus which has seen him out of action for the past month. The Croatian national team captain said, "I now have to get my fitness back before I start being considered for Milan but I'll be more than ready by Euro '96".

The Croatian national team

which will be based in Nottingham for Euro '96 have made plans to bring Croatian singer Kruvoslav Slabinac "Kico" with them. The singer who sings English rather well will be singing Gluis's "Viva Croatia" to the lads before they face Denmark Turkey and Portugal.

Mario Stanic has almost single handedly won the Belgium championship for his club F.C. Brugge. His 19 goals this season have been the revelation which has secured the title from rival Anderlecht. A fellow Croat striker Robert Spehar scored 12 and the season is not over yet.

Sadly for F.C. Brugge the price of success is to lose its star players and the first is Australian Paul Okon who will join Lazio in Italy followed

by Mario Stanic who is talking to Fiorentina and Udinese but Robert Spemar on the other hand has been offered big bucks to stay. All three have been offered Serie A contracts but will they turn their backs on playing in the Champions Cup next season. That is another question.

According to "Gazzetta Dello Sport" an Italian sports daily the following players will find themselves in Serie A with new clubs: Alen Boksic (Lazio to Juventus), Meho Kodro (Barcelona to Parma) Mario Stanic (Brugge to Udinese), Goran Vlaovic (Padova to Napoli), Zvonimir Boban (AC Milan to ?)

For more Croatian Sports News and a good laugh in English tune into Cro 2000 on Sydney Radio 98.5 FM at 8.45 pm with Ante Grabovac.



Goran Vlaovic: Has scored 12 goals in as many starts for Padova.

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Before we get into part three, the penultimate episode, we have a very special, one off offer for all interested parties but you'll have to act FAST!

We have been able to arrange SIGNED copies of Paul Merson's (Arsenal and England) testimonial Brochure.

The brochure is 60 full colour pages and carries anecdotes and stories from a variety of people connected with the game (not just from Arsenal!)

However, we cannot even repeat this offer through these pages, such is the deadline we have to meet. Anyone interested must have their cash to us by no later than next Tuesday, April 30. Any letters received after this date will be returned as we cannot go beyond this deadline.

A copy of this brochure, signed by the "Magic man Merse" himself, will cost you \$20 per copy but be very quick. Only a limited number are being autographed by the man and as stated, you ONLY have until Tuesday April 30 to get your order in.

These items will be sent over to Australia with the promise of the company concerned that each copy will be personally signed by "the Merse" and not super-imposed and that it will take about three weeks from this date to arrive.

Please send \$20 (cash if you prefer) by cheque to: UKSSD, PO BOX 56 KINGSWAY WEST, NSW 2208. Cheques should be made payable to UKSSD only and please remember that this organisation is NON PROFIT making. This offer CANNOT be repeated, be quick or miss out!

ORIGINS OF THE GAME — RULES AT LAST

Up until this time, there was never a set of clear and/or binding legislation as to the "rules of play" and as

many variations and quirks were used in as many places that played the game. Common origins emerge in Both Association and rugby football and many terms we use today, in both codes, date back to the 1800s.

The following is an example of an early "offside" rule as explained by "Eton School":

Sneaking: a player is considered "sneaking" when only three or less than three of the opposite side are before him and the ball behind him, and in such case he may not kick the ball.

Eton is famous for Rugby football — William Webb Ellis being the first player to catch and "run with the ball", which was not legalised by the code for a further 20 years — but there is a clear understanding of how the "off-side" was approached in 1843 and is still in use today, albeit modified for these times.

Other terms can be found during this period such as: Drop-kick, points, places (place kicks or free kicks) and wings all started in the rugby form but became commonplace in nearly all football codes throughout the world.

In latter times, rules for Association Football could only be adopted by those clubs affiliated to the Football Association. In the early years this basically meant "the London clubs", even though the game was becoming just as strong in the north of England.

So incensed were the Yorkshiremen that they issued a challenge to the Londoners, which was wholeheartedly taken up and became the first "inter-city" match when played at Battersea Park in March of 1867. It was even agreed before the game that a set of rules be drawn up which included:

Play should last for 90 minutes. There should be only 11 players per team. the pitch should measure 120 x 80 yards. The Londoners should wear white. The ball to be used, a "Lillywhites No

5" and the papers be told of the event.

The London side won by two goals and four touchdowns to nil. The "touchdowns" stemmed from the old Eton style game and were abolished within the next two years. the London/Sheffield match became an annual fixture until the late 19th century.

It wasn't until 1870 that a real innovation was to come about when the football Association started a "challenge cup" competition for its 30 odd members.

This became the fore-runner of the greatest domestic cup competition the world has ever known — The Football Association Challenge Cup, the cup that dreams are made of, the longest running annual cup competition in the world.

Many thought the idea of a "challenge cup" unwise but after putting the idea forward, Mr C W Alcock managed to get the proposal adopted by the Football Association and the princely sum of "20 pounds" was spent on purchasing the first trophy.

It was the clubs that put this money forward and one of those included Queens Park of Scotland. Coming to England to play the games was never going to be easy and they were "excused" playing until the semi-final stages. They travelled down from Scotland to Kennington Oval (London SE11 and home of Surrey County Cricket Club within the Duchy of Cornwall, owned by Prince Charles) to play the Wanderers in March 1872, which they were to draw.

However, being unable to obtain the funds necessary to make the return journey, the previous trip had been with the aid of well wishers and donations, had to withdraw from the replay. Quite why the replay could not have been played on a neutral ground nearer to the border is still a mystery.

Wanderers went on to meet and defeat the Royal Engineers 1-0 in the first ever final, indeed they went on to win the trophy some five times in the years between 1872 and 1878.

FLOODLIGHTS!

Another record bestowed

upon that great side was, they played in the first ever "official" floodlight match of any kind in the world on 16

fine international players. All in all, much to the malaise of the "northern" clubs, the teams from outside

about to ripen.

POWER BASE SHIFTING

In barely three years from 1879, Lancashire had become the power base of modern football. Blackburn Rovers were the beaten finalists in 1882 but the following year it was the turn of their neighbours Blackburn Olympic.

Not to be outdone, in the four years following 1883, Blackburn Rovers won the cup when twice beating Queens Park (Scotland) and West Bromwich Albion (Midlands) respectively in the final.

If this was a clear warning to the London sides, it wasn't heeded as first Aston Villa, West Brom, Preston North End and Blackburn Rovers (twice) lifted the trophy over the next five years without a London club anywhere in sight.

Indeed, from 1883 until 1900, when Southampton were beaten finalists, not a single "southern club" had appeared in the final at all!

Though many and varied are the explanations for this, (the least not being that many more sides were and had been formed outside the traditional breeding grounds of the southern area), there can be no doubt that the north of England had become the bastion of the game.

This is not to say that the Midland clubs of Aston Villa, Wolverhampton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion did not play their part of course. Football, which had been so maligned through the centuries from Kings and Clergy to poets and playwrights, had become the game of the people.

The everyday man in the street thought the sport belonged to him and since the time of that Darwen v Old Etonian match in 1879, when a group of ordinary "working-men" had so abruptly shocked the cultured play of the southern dominated competition, football had arrived to stay, prosper and grow.

It is worth noting here, since the time of the Blackburn Olympic cup win way back in 1883, each name to appear as the winner of this prestigious competition

has been a member of the football association, an unbroken chain that stretches back for over a century.

THE SCOTTISH FA CUP

First played for in the season 1873/74, it has been round for longer than the league for obvious reasons. Queens Park won the first three finals which suited their Latin motto aptly: Ludus causa ludendi or translated the game's the thing. A shame perhaps, today it's not always the sentiment shown when "winning" is everything and at any cost.

We'll cover this competition further in the coming weeks, as we approach the final of course, but many of the player from across the border, in traditional style it seems, found their way south

Again the reasons are many but in the main it was due to the promise of better employment in the heart of industrial England. Cotton mills, mining, ship building, steelworks etc were centred around the Lancashire/Newcastle area's at this time although working on the Clyde was probably the main employment opportunity in Scotland, Glasgow in particular.

This exodus coincided with the emergence of the northern teams domination of the English game and cannot be overlooked as an important factor in the popularity of the code.

These "cross-border" transfers have continued over the years with many great players making the same trip down, Law, Dalglish, Souness, Strachan, McQueen, Jordon, Bremner and co. spring readily to mind but many others could be added to this list.

It all helped to spread the game, the game of the people, our game. From the sport of centuries we finally arrive at the game of today, a sport that has its origins in many lands and in many forms but has become the sport of the world, played in nearly 200 countries, billions of supporters and all carrying the one true "world game" in their hearts — football!

THE F.A. CUP



The English FA Cup the most prize trophy in Britain.

November 1878, again at Kennington Oval. Funnily enough, this was not a great experiment or success because the lights (four in all) were "moveable" and were powered by two Sieman dynamo-electric generators and two were battery driven, hence, could not be expected to keep up with play.

Wanderers opponents that night were Clapham Rovers who also deserve mention. So it was that the oldest domestic cup competition in the world actually came into being ... the football Association Challenge Cup.

At first, it was the locally based London clubs that dominated the entire make-up of the competition but such was its image, soon many of the "provincial" football sides were starting to enter. A team from Sheffield and Shropshire Wanderers were soon joined by other sides from the Lancashire and Birmingham associations and also a Welsh side — aptly named "the Druids" — entered and went on to produce many

London could not match the "skilful Londoners" and for many years this continued.

However, by 1870, clubs such as Darwen were doing battle with the likes of Old Etonians. As a member of the Lancashire League, little Darwen were never expected to trouble the giants from the south and after going five goals behind, all was apparently business as usual.

The little club from Lancashire finally drew the match and then had to find the cash to return to London for the replay. However, in the days of "doing the right thing", not only did their supporters stump up for it but the Football Association AND the Old Etonians put their hands in their own pockets too!

This match was also drawn but not before the pride of this southern club had been dented and it was only after a second replay that they made their way into the semi-final stages of the cup. The writing was on the wall, the seeds of change had been sown and the fruits were

Red card for troublemakers

One of the largest police operations in British history will roll into action for the 1996 European Championships, the man in charge of the tournament's security said last week.

Malcolm George, chief security officer for Euro '96, said also that anyone causing trouble "will be given the red card immediately."

"The British police force is one of the best in the world and we have been preparing for this event for years."

"We will have the largest scale police operation for many years in this country. Our sophisticated

intelligence and high-tech surveillance system is second to none," he said.

As many as 300,000 fans from 15 countries are expected to arrive in Britain this June for the biggest international event to be staged in the country since the 1966 World Cup.

A total of 1.3 million fans will attend the 31 matches in the eight host cities over a three-week period starting with England's curtain-raiser against Switzerland on June 8.

"I am confident we have done everything possible to minimise the risks of trouble and our first priority is to protect the interests of the vast



majority of supporters who are genuine fans," said George.

George said that for operational and tactical reasons he would not disclose details of how many officers would be on duty at a given match or how and where they would

be deployed.

George is keen to stress that his officers' initial role will be to guide and assist.

He said: "Every police officer should be regarded as an ambassador, not only for the country but the event."

"Unfortunately, any large event of this nature always provides opportunities for the criminal."

British police have been in close contact for several years with their counterparts on mainland Europe in a bid to target known trouble-makers.

Information is crucial to the fight against organised hooligans — often cells of neo-fascists — who are known to have been developing their own plans for the event.

Detective Inspector Peter Chapman, head of the football unit at the National Criminal Intelligence Service, believes this pan-European co-operation will be a great help in the fight to prevent serious outbreaks of violence that marred the events in Sweden in 1992 and West Germany in 1988.

"I know who the English hooligans are and we have well-established channels of communication with our colleagues on the continent. Our relations with our colleagues in Germany and Holland are particularly good," said Chapman.

The police believe that if trouble does occur, it will be in the pubs miles away from the ground and not in the stadiums.

But he warned that trouble can spring up in the most unlikely of places.

"To give you an example of the problems we face, there is a quiet little hamlet in the countryside just outside London where we have had big trouble in the past after fans have left Wembley and gone for a drink," said Purnell.



Supporters having fun — just what the World Game needs at Euro 96.

RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM GROUND ADDRESS	STOKE Victoria Ground Booths Old Road Stoke on Trent ST4 4EG	SUNDERLAND Roker Park Grantham Road Roker Sunderland SR6 9SW	SWANSEA Vetch Field Swansea SA1 3SU
CAPACITY	24,071	22,657	16,540
RECORD GATE	51,380 (1937)	75,118 (1933)	32,796 (1968)
DEBUT BY RAIL	1878	1898	1912
COMMENTS	Stoke-on-Trent Quite impressed with this ground. It's built up rather than out. Very impressive from the outside actually.	Seaburn Wonderful history this ground is going to be shut soon as the club is building a new stadium. Still much of the history will be left behind at Roker Park.	Swansea High Street I'm not sure which is more impressive the ground or the jail next door!
ACCESSIBILITY RATING/5	3.5	3.5	3
OVERALL GROUND RATING/10	7.5	7	5.5

Premier League Team

PROFILES

MIDDLESBROUGH

BY STUART JONES

Allan Miller (G) — Born 1970 in Epping. Miller started his career at Arsenal. Had loan spell at Plymouth, Wigan and Birmingham City until moving to Middlesbrough.

Gary Walsh (G) — Born Wigan in 1968. Played at Manchester United with loan spells at Airdrie (Scotland) and Oldham. Moved across to Middlesbrough rejoining Bryan Robson.

Viv Anderson (D) — Player Coach — Born Nottingham in 1956. Started at Forest before moving to Arsenal. Left them for Manchester United and then moved to Sheffield Wednesday. Was player Manager at Barnsley before moving to Middlesbrough. Former England defender.

Steve Vickers (D) — Born Bishop Auckland in 1967. Played for Spennymoor before moving to Tranmere. Then moved to Middlesbrough.

Nigel Pearson (D) — Born Nottingham in 1963. Played over 150 times for Shrewsbury before bettering that record at Sheffield Wednesday. Left Wednesday for Middlesbrough.

Derek Whyte (D) — Born Glasgow in 1968. Played for Celtic BC before moving to the first team at Celtic. Then moved to Middlesbrough.

Curtis Fleming (D) — Born Manchester in 1968. Played for St Patricks Athletic before being put on the books of Swindon. Left them before a first team League appearance for Middlesbrough.

Phil Whelan (D) — Born Stockport 1972. Played for Ipswich before joining Middlesbrough.

Neil Cox (D) — Born Scunthorpe in 1971. Played for his local league club until moving to Aston Villa. Then moved to Middlesbrough.

Branco (D/M) — Born Brazil in 1963. Bought out his own International contract to join his Brazilian team mate in moving to 'Boro this season.

Clayton Blackmore (M) — Born Neath 1964. Was an apprentice at Manchester United and came up through the ranks to play 186 games for the first team in the league. Left for Middlesbrough with Bryan Robson.

Robbie Mustoe (M) — Born Oxford in 1968. Played for his local team Oxford United near on 100 times before moving to Middlesbrough.

Graham Kavanagh (M) — Born Dublin in 1973. Played for Home Farm before moving to England with 'Boro. Went on loan to Darlington for five league games.

Bryan Robson (M) — Born 1957 in Witton Gilbert. Apprentice at West Brom, moving into the first team and playing just three short of 200 league games for them. Moved to Manchester United where he became Captain Marvel, playing 345 league games. The former England Captain then left United to become Player/Manager at Middlesbrough.

Craig Hignett (M) — Born Whiston in 1970. Played for Crewe 121 times in the league before a big money move to the North East.

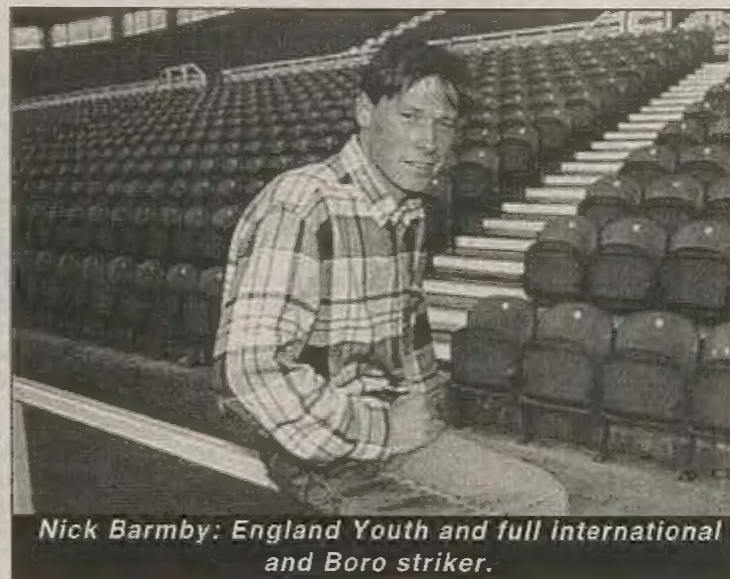
Juninho (M) — Born Brazil in 1973. Left Sao Paulo for Middlesbrough this season, causing quite a sensation. Brazil international.

John Hendrie (F) — Born 1963 in Lennoxton. Played for Coventry and also had a loan trip to Hereford. Moved to Bradford City and then Newcastle United before playing for Leeds. He then joined Middlesbrough.

Nick Barmby (F) — Born Hull in 1974. Played for Tottenham Hotspur and gained his first England cap. Wanted to move back up north and joined Middlesbrough.

Jan-Aage Fjortoft (F) — Born 1967 in Aalesund. Left Rapid Vienna to join Swindon. Was a big success there but finally jumped the sinking ship to join Middlesbrough. Also an international player for Norway.

*Just a note in response to the news of Ron Atkinson's career. I don't really have full details of all the managers careers. However, Ron Atkinson's career began when he signed schoolboy forms for Wolves. He was rejected by them and went to BSA tools. Then signed by Aston Villa before joining Headington United on a free (they of course became Oxford United). He left there to be manager of Kettering — a job he chose over offers at Crewe and Burnley. He then managed Cambridge United before moving to WBA. Left Albion after they came third and went to Manchester United. Sacked by United in 1986 he returned to WBA before going to Athletic Madrid where he was in charge for 96 days. Then was made caretaker manager at Sheffield Wednesday before being appointed full manager there. Moved to Aston Villa and his most recent move was to Coventry. He is the oldest Premier League manager. Works on TV a fair bit!



Nick Barmby: England Youth and full international and Boro striker.

From bad boy to hero for Eric

Manchester United's mercurial French striker Eric Cantona completed a remarkable transformation from soccer bad boy to hero when he was voted England's Footballer of the Year last Saturday.

Cantona, who received 36 per cent of the votes from the Football Writers Association, beat Chelsea's Dutch import Ruud Gullit into second place with new England cap, Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler, third.

The Frenchman's season began late after he completed an eight-month ban for his infamous Kung Fu kick at a Crystal Palace supporter in January 1995.

But he has made up for lost time in spectacular style, proving the inspiration for Manchester United's bid to clinch its second cup and league double in three seasons.

Cantona has missed only one of the 36 league and Cup games United have played since his return and has netted 17 goals.

Significantly, he has scored seven goals in the past eight games, of which four have been match-winners.

United manager Alex Ferguson said: "This award

proves the value of British justice. It is well deserved because there is no doubt that Eric Cantona has been the best player in the country this season."

Cantona, in France for a weekend break, said: "I am very proud and privileged. It is a tremendous honour for me and my country and a great tribute to the players at Manchester United."

He is the first Manchester United player to win the coveted award since George Best in 1969.

It is not the kind of award that ever looked likely to come Cantona's way after a volatile career which has seen him fined and suspended by several of the clubs he has played for and also banned from the French team for a year after swearing at the coach.

At one French disciplinary hearing, after being banned for three matches for throwing the ball at a referee, he walked up to each committee member and said: "Idiot."

His ban was increased to two months and he responded by announcing his retirement from soccer. But the following year he moved to England where he helped Leeds United win the league championship before



Eric Cantona: Voted England's Footballer of the Year.

moving on to Manchester United.

His attack on the fan last season not only earned the lengthy suspension but

initially a two-year prison sentence. But that was commuted on appeal to 120 hours of community service.

Celtic win but Rangers almost there

All-conquering Rangers took a huge stride towards their eighth successive Scottish Premier Division soccer championship with a vital 3-1 victory at Motherwell last weekend.

Walter Smith's side is four-points clear of arch-rivals Celtic with only two matches left.

And a win over Aberdeen at Ibrox next Sunday will clinch the title for Rangers, even if Celtic beats Partick the previous day.

Goals from Stuart McCall and Erik Bo Andersen earned a 2-0 half-time lead before Paul Gascoigne, booked earlier, scored his 16th goal of the season. Dougie Arnott netted Motherwell's consolation.

It made it a happy anniversary for Smith, who took over from Graeme Souness as Rangers manager five years ago this week.

Smith hailed his champions-elect, saying: "We are where we want to be and in the happy position of needing one win to be sure of the title."

The only blot for Rangers was a yellow card for Gascoigne, which means one more booking in the last two League games would rule the England star out of

the Scottish Cup Final with Hearts on May 18.

Gascoigne's booking came for a 29th minute foul on Motherwell's Paul Lambert.

Asked if the maverick midfielder might be rested because of his disciplinary position, Smith ruled it out saying: "I'll be thinking about winning a League championship."

Celtic kept alive its

distant dream of the title with a spanking 4-0 win that plunged hapless Falkirk into the first division.

Two goals from German star Andreas Thom and one apiece from Portuguese international Jorge Cadete and youngster Simon Donnelly sealed the three points.

Celtic boss Tommy Burns hinted his side's title prospects might be slipping away.

He admitted: "It is a possibility that we're running out of games in terms of the title. But you never run out of games to improve the quality of your play."

Aberdeen's uncomprising midfielder, Dean Windass, continued his one-man mission against Hearts to rescue a point for the Dons with a second-half penalty.

With his third strike in four games against the Edinburgh side this season, Windass ensured Aberdeen would not suffer a repeat of its Scottish Cup semi-final defeat at the hands of Jim Jefferies' men. Skipper Gary Locke scored for Hearts.

In the day's other matches, Hibernian and Raith fought out a 1-1 draw while Kilmarnock beat Partick 2-1.



Simon Donnelly: The Celtic youngster sealed the win.

Champions decided by play off?

The English Premier League title will be decided by a play-off for the first time in its 108-year history if Manchester United and Newcastle United finish the season with identical records, it has been confirmed by the competition's ruling body.

Under new rules brought in when the Premier League started in 1992, the title is decided by a play-off on a neutral ground if points, goal difference and goals scored are the same after 38 matches.

Manchester United, on 73 points, lead Newcastle, on 70 points, by three points — but Kevin Keegan's side have a game in hand. United's goal tally is 64-35, while Newcastle's is 62-35.

The top two teams have finished level on points on only five occasions since the championship began in 1888. The most recent one was in 1989 when Arsenal won the title with virtually the last kick of the season when a Michael Thomas goal gave the Gunners a 2-0 win at Liverpool — and the title on goal difference. Liverpool would have won the title if they had lost the match only 1-0.

Injuries take toll of stars

Les Ferdinand and Rob Lee, carrying injuries in Newcastle's 1-0 win over Southampton last week have been pulled out of the England squad for this week's friendly against Croatia.

Ferdinand, who scored the only goal in England's 1-0 victory over Bulgaria last month, was at the start of the ninth-minute goal by Lee.

But Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan said later both players had been forced out of the squad to take on fellow European championship finalists Croatia at Wembley, tomorrow.

"I've got to pull Les out. He's played the last three games with a broken toe," Keegan said.

"He's had injections before games and he's done a marvellous job."

"I've wanted him to be in the side because of his presence but he needs a rest, although it should be healed for the next game at Leeds on Monday week."

Keegan added: "I've got to pull Rob out as well."

"He's got an Achilles problem and while they will both report if Terry (England manager Terry

Venables) wants them too, I think he'll take our word for it."

Manchester United captain Steve Bruce may miss next month's English FA Cup final after suffering injury in a premier league match last Wednesday, manager Alex Ferguson said.

Central defender Bruce limped off in the first half of United's 1-0 win over Leeds.

"He may miss the FA Cup Final," Ferguson said.

United faces Liverpool in the Cup Final at Wembley on May 11.

Aston Villa fullback Gary Charles could be out of action for up to a year after suffering a fractured and dislocated left ankle in a 1-1 premier league draw with West Ham.

Villa physiotherapist Jim Walker likened the injury in seriousness to the broken leg recently suffered by Coventry's David Busset, who faces 12 months on the sidelines.

Charles was taken to hospital after sustaining the injury in a first-half collision with West Ham striker Iain Dowie at Villa Park.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE THE KEY REMAINING MATCHES

CHAMPIONSHIP CONTENDERS

NEWCASTLE UNITED

April 29	Leeds	Away
May 2	Nottm Forest	Away
May 5	Tottenham	Home

MANCHESTER UNITED

April 28	Nottm Forest	Home
May 5	Middlesbrough	Away

RELEGATION CONTENDERS

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

April 27	Everton	Home
May 5	West Ham	Away

WIMBLEDON

April 27	Coventry	Home
May 5	Southampton	Away

MANCHESTER CITY

April 27	Aston Villa	Away
May 5	Liverpool	Home

SOUTHAMPTON

April 27	Bolton	Away
May 5	Wimbledon	Home

QUEENS PARK RANGERS

April 27	West Ham	Home
May 5	Nottm Forest	Away

COVENTRY

April 27	Wimbledon	Away
May 5	Leeds	Home

BOLTON

April 27	Wimbledon	Away
May 5	Arsenal	Away

CUP FINAL ON SBS



Glasgow Rangers will be aiming for the elusive double when it takes on Hearts next month in the Scottish Cup Final.

Rangers, only one match away from winning the League for the eighth consecutive time, have lifted the Scottish Cup a record 26 times since the club was formed in 1899.

The Gers have been runners-up 16 other times.

Hearts, on the other hand, last won the Cup in 1956 with five victories in total out of 10 Final appearances.

The Edinburgh side's most recent final appearance was in 1986 when it lost to Aberdeen.

SBS TV will televise the final delayed on Sunday, May 19. Coverage starts at 12.30pm (12noon Adelaide).

RED FOR UNITED

One day after dumping its "unlucky" grey away strip, Manchester United got some good news about its kit when it won the toss to wear its traditional red shirts in the FA Cup Final on May 11.

As Liverpool also plays in red the issue was decided on the toss of a coin with a Manchester United official calling correctly.

That could be a lucky omen for United which played in its red shirts when it beat Liverpool 2-1 in the 1977 Cup Final.

When they met in the League Cup final in 1983, Liverpool played in its first-choice strip of all-red while United played in white shirts and black shorts and Liverpool won that match 2-1.

Grey shirts stripped

Manchester United faced the wrath of thousands of fans after confirming last week it is to scrap the 'unlucky' grey change strip.

United ditched the strip after less than a season and at half time in its shock 3-1 defeat at Southampton claiming that the players had difficulty seeing each other.

United has lost four and drawn one of the five games in which it has been worn.

Thousands of parents bought the Umbro-manufactured grey shirts — minimum price \$58.00 — for their children.

But the Premiership leader announced it would be dropped immediately with a new white strip introduced next season.

Club chairman and chief executive Martin Edwards said there would be a \$20 reduction on the new shirt.

United boss Ferguson

denied that superstition had played a part in the decision although the 14 points dropped in the five games it has been worn could prove crucial in the race to the championship.

"It's purely a question of peripheral vision for the players. They've all felt it for quite a while and we've got to do what's good for Manchester United."

England, however, has no plans to abandon its own new grey outfit, unveiled to critical disapproval last month against Bulgaria.

"Our players had no difficulty picking each other out and that was a night game," said FA spokesman Steve Double.

England, though, is expected to stick to its more traditional white strip for all its European Championship matches this summer.

England squad named for Croatia game



Stan Collymore: One of three Liverpool strikers in England squad.

Stan Collymore was one of six Liverpool players called up by England coach Terry Venables for this week's European Championship warm-up game against Croatia at Wembley.

At \$A16.29 million, British soccer's most expensive transfer, Collymore has not made an England appearance since last summer, when he played against both Japan and Brazil.

Those are his only two caps and now the talented but erratic 25-year-old forward has the chance to burst into the Euro '96 squad at a time when Blackburn's Alan Shearer is suffering repeated injury problems.

Shearer, who has a groin injury, is omitted from Venables' squad of 26 but the coach has plenty of other attacking options in Newcastle's Les Ferdinand and Peter Beardsley, Tottenham's Teddy Sheringham, Collymore and his Liverpool colleagues Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman and Middlesbrough's Nicky Barmby.

Blackburn midfielder Jason Wilcox, who has missed almost a year after a

knee operation, is recalled despite playing only seven games since his comeback in February.

With centrebacks Tony Adams, Gary Pallister, Steve Howey and Gareth Southgate all missing through injury, Venables retained Liverpool veteran Mark Wright and recalled Tottenham newcomer Sol Campbell.

Inter Milan midfielder Paul Ince, who has scored twice for his club in his last three games, stays in the squad and so does Glasgow Rangers' Paul Gascoigne.

The squad is —

Goalkeepers:

David Seaman (Arsenal)
Tim Flowers (Blackburn)
Ian Walker (Tottenham)

Defenders:

Gary Neville (Man. Utd)
Rob Jones (Liverpool)
Sol Campbell (Spurs)
Mark Wright (Liverpool)
Ugo Ehiogu (Aston Villa)
Stuart Pearce (N. Forest)
Philip Neville (Man. Utd)

Midfielders:

Paul Ince (Inter Milan)
Paul Gascoigne (Rangers)
David Platt (Arsenal)
Dennis Wise (Chelsea)
Jamie Redknapp (L'pool)
Jason Wilcox (Blackburn)
Steve Stone (N. Forest)
Trevor Sinclair (QPR)

Forwards:

Stan Collymore (L'pool)
Teddy Sheringham (Spurs)
Robbie Fowler (L'pool)
Nicky Barmby (M'brough)
Peter Beardsley (N'castle)
Steve McManaman (L'pool)

Gallacher to start against Denmark



Kevin Gallacher: Blackburn winger impressed against Australia.

Scotland manager Craig Brown named his squad for the friendly match against the reigning European champion, Denmark this week.

Blackburn's Kevin Gallacher is expected to be given a starting role against Denmark after a good display as a second-half substitute in a 1-0 win over Australia last month.

Hibernian veteran Jim Leighton and Andy Gorm of Rangers will again contest the goalkeeping position.

Squad —

Andy Gorm (Rangers)
Jim Leighton (Hibernian)
Bryan Gunn (Norwich)
Tom Boyd (Celtic)
Colin Calderwood (Tottenham)
Colin Hendry (Blackburn)
Stewart McKimmie (Aberdeen)
Tosh McKinlay (Celtic)
Alan McLaren (Rangers)
Gary McAllister (Leeds)
Stuart McCall (Rangers)
Scott Gemmill (Nottm Forest)
Paul McStay (Celtic)
John Collins (Celtic)
Billy McKinlay (Blackburn)
Craig Burley (Chelsea)
Kevin Gallacher (Blackburn)
Ally McCoist (Rangers)
John Spencer (Chelsea)
Darren Jackson (Hibernian)



John Collins: Celtic's star midfielder

Duncan Ferguson out of Euro '96



Duncan Ferguson: Out until next season due to injury.

Everton manager Joe Royle last week ruled his Scottish international striker Duncan Ferguson out of June's European Championship after consulting the specialist treating the player's long-term groin injury.

The former Glasgow Rangers star will now miss Everton's final two games of the season and Scotland's friendly against fellow Euro '96 finalists Denmark in Copenhagen this week.

"We've made the decision that he won't play in our last two games. We want him to have a full rest over the summer to give him a chance of a full recovery for next season," said Royle.

Ferguson, who missed several weeks while serving a jail sentence for headbutting a player while still with Rangers, has scored seven times in 20 appearances this season.

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ERICSSON CUP MATCHES THIS WEEK

ROUND 33



SUNDAY, APRIL 28

WOLLONGONG CITY
v
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
BRANDON PARK - 7.00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 28

CANBERRA COSMOS
v
MORWELL FALCONS
BRUCE STADIUM - 7.00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 28

MARCONI FAIRFIELD
v
WEST ADELAIDE
MARCONI STADIUM - 7.00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 28

UTS OLYMPIC
v
BRISBANE STRIKERS
LEICHHARDT OVAL - 7.00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 28

SOUTH MELBOURNE
v
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
BOB JANE STADIUM - 7.00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 28

ADELAIDE CITY
v
SYDNEY UNITED
HINDMARSH STADIUM - 6.30PM



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